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Just Locs

Linda Deneroff
704 E. Thomas #103
Seattle, WA 98102

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I watched TESB again Sunday night (on NBC, November 22nd). That film was not meant for commercial breaks. One gets caught up in the action and then, boom, ad time. I think they ran it uncut, but what I should have done was just put on the tape and saved myself a half-hour. Of course, I always think of these things after it's too late. It was interesting to note, however, that they got James Earl Jones to do a voice-over before the film, to introduce it, as it were. I've always maintained that TESB is complete only when viewed from the Imperial point of view, and Earl's introduction echoed that.

I don't know why it took so long to realize (7-1/2 years??) that Luke takes a beating in TESB, and I don't mean just from Vader. He's assaulted from the start of the film to the end: first the Wampa attack, then Yoda's training (which didn't look gentle), and then, of course, Vader cuts off his hand. Compared to that, everybody else has it easy! It must be nearly a year since I've seen TESB, though I can't believe it. But it gave me a chance to enjoy the film with fresh eyes. I find that with the passage of time, I forget things and rediscover them, or find new things to peak my interest in the trilogy.

One of the new things I found Sunday night was when Han takes off from Hoth with Leia, Chewie and Threepio. Back before JEDI, when people were speculating that Han was "the Other", one of the assumptions was that Vader was mistaking Han for Luke on the Falcon (*i.e.*, that he was sensing a Force user). But Sunday night I had the interesting speculation that Vader was mistaking Leia for Luke. But, if

that's the case, why didn't he sense her Force potential back on the Death Star? (Perhaps her Force potential wasn't released until after she comes in contact with Luke? That could lead to some interesting stories!) And why, if Luke is, at that point, much stronger in the Force than Leia, can't Vader distinguish this difference? Or is whatever the Force is unmeasurable (except perhaps when it's being used)? Anybody care to speculate?

I know this is a SWARS zine, but I want to talk about STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION for a bit (if that's okay with you, Cheree). We've seen about ten episodes now, but it still hasn't quite gelled for me. I know you can't go home again, though I think the producers have certainly tried. But I don't think the producers have quite defined who these people are and the interrelationships. It's as if all they have to work with are the one paragraph character outlines I first saw months ago. Surely by now, it would seem to me, the writers would have fleshed these people out. But we hardly know more about each of them now than we did with the first episode. This could prove to be a fatal flaw.

Certainly the show is enjoyable, but whatever the spark was that enthralled me over the first incarnation, it just isn't there in the second. Part of the problem may be that these new episodes are so short (45 minutes; you can fit 8 episodes on a T-120 tape!) they don't have time for the interaction, the quips, and personality quirks that so defined Kirk, Spock, McCoy, et al. If there's any camaraderie at all, it's between Data and Ryker, but they're not in a position to carry the show. Ryker may be first officer, but the only person the show seems to revolve around is Picard. Certainly, his is the most defined character, but he seems to hold himself somewhat aloof from everyone else. This is probably more in the nature of being a cap-

tain than William Shatner's portrayal, but it makes for poor relationships in a TV series. There's no gestalt; these are people working together but they don't seem to care about each other--yet.

My biggest complaint, though, is Wesley. SPACE THE KID! I don't know why he's featured so prominently. Original ST appealed to kids and teenagers without one single kid or teenager being a permanent character, yet alone a bridge member! In trying to please everyone (old fan, new--and young--mundanes), they may wind up pleasing none. And that would be sad.

Likes Snow

Deborah L. Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

January 8, 1988

Hello, everyone. I woke up this morning to see Hoth outside the front door. It had finally snowed enough to whet my appetite (about 6 inches). I've been so disappointed this winter (December had temps in the 50's and 60's). Call me crazy (everyone has) but I love snow and lots of it (I don't ski). Think snow!!

Well, I did it! I made it to Star Tours at Disney. It was fabulous. Melanie described it better than I could but I will add two things. Across from the big screen that displayed boarding shuttle schedules and places to visit was the control booth. There were Mon Calamari inside. Second thing, after the ride, you wind through this corridor to the gift shop (wrong place to steer me). The corridor had some posters of places you could eventually visit--Cloud City, Tatooine, Dagobah, and Yavin (to name a few of them off the top of my head). They were really beautifully done.

I got a few pictures of our favorite droids as well as some of the scenery (a mural on the outside of the building--some shuttles and a Death Star). I plan a repeat trip later this year no matter what it costs.

Marti: Hi. I have purchased all the Dragon-lance books but have yet to read them. I love to read but with work and other things, I've had very little time to do it. I just keep buying SF and Romance books and still have yet to catch up. Good job on your first letter.

Ellen: I enjoyed your essay very much. I guess I don't run in the same circles to have heard about the Cosmic Chessmaster (aside from George, of course). The points you brought out about Leia sort of put her in a new light for me--I hadn't really seen her as a cold-hearted witch before, at least not towards the end of the trilogy. Great reading!

Lin: Am waiting for my Imperial Walkers. I also was a little disappointed--why not the Falcon? Oh, well. I have not purchased any plate holders but plan on investing in the nice ones.

Maggie: I found your ideas on spiritualism most interesting, a new twist to think about.

Dr. Mary: I'm glad Cheree spilled the beans about what kind of good doctor you are. I've been

working at an animal hospital for five years now as a veterinary technician (uncertified).

Melanie: Hello to a fellow Star Tours rider. I think the new ST is...interesting. The first few episodes had references to Kirk's time but for the most part it's not as satisfying as the original.

Cheree: I agree with you that Picard is a wimp. I do like Ryker, Data, Counsellor Troi, Geordi and Worf. I don't care for the new doctor, though. I just couldn't believe it when McCoy showed up. That made the whole show for me. The book elaborates a little more on his thoughts. Did anyone see the episode where Majel Barrett (Nurse Chapel) appeared? What a bizarre character. I bet Spock was rolling over in his grave (or whatever).

Lisa: Loved PRINCESS BRIDE, too.

If anyone is interested, the SW Fan Club has been reborn and given a name change. It's now called The Lucasfilm Fan Club. The first issue is out now and is published four times a year. The address is: P.O. Box 111000, Aurora, CO 80011. Price is \$8.00/year.

They have a nice interview with Anthony Daniels, updates on their latest movies (WILLOW and INDY III to film in Fall of 1988), an article on the SW 10th anniversary convention and information on collectibles.

Anyone buy the SW role-playing game yet? I haven't but plan to.

I just got my SW plate in the mail. It looks very nice. The sixth plate is Luke and Yoda. I hope the next plate after that is Chewie and Han (lust, lust!).

Must go now. Happy New Year to you all!

English Royalty

Bev Clark
10501 8th Ave. NE #119
Seattle, WA 98125

January 8, 1988

Melanie's explanation of the title system in the English royal family needs some correction. In general, she would be right--royal titles descend through the male line only, and the children of a British monarch's daughter take their titles (or lack of titles) from their father's status. Thus Princess Anne's children have no titles, but Prince Andrew's and Prince Edward's children will be princes and princesses (but the next generation after them won't be).

However, the children of Elizabeth herself who were born before she became Queen have royal titles by a decree issued by King George VI in November, 1948, 5 days before Prince Charles was born. They didn't inherit royal status from Prince Philip (and it would have been Greek, not British, royal status if they had). Philip relinquished his Greek title when he married Elizabeth and assumed British citizenship. Strictly speaking, in the British peerage, he is only the Duke of Edinburgh, not "Prince"

Philip; he has never been made a prince of Great Britain (or, I believe, prince consort, as Queen Victoria's husband was) and is called "prince" from habit and courtesy. Had his children taken their titles from him, they would be Charles, Earl of Merioneth, Lady Anne Mountbatten, Lord Andrew Mountbatten, and Lord Edward Mountbatten. As it is, his descendants won't even use his surname exclusively; by decree of Elizabeth, they will attach "Windsor" to the surname "Mountbatten."

There are further complications as well. The decree that granted royal status to any children born to Princess Elizabeth also clarified her right to inherit the throne. The problem was that Elizabeth had a sister. While the oldest son inherits everything in an estate subject to the British inheritance laws, daughters split an inheritance equally (and only inherit when there are no sons, of course). If a title that can be inherited by a woman is involved, it goes into "abeyance" until the lines of all but one sister have died out, and then her descendant can inherit. The monarchy could not go into abeyance, nor could it be somehow split between the two sisters. So King George's decree specifically established the right of Elizabeth and her descendants to inherit the throne.

Of course, all this applies to SW and Princess Leia's position only if one assumes that Alderaan had something like the British system of male primogeniture. Alderaan could have been like Sweden, where (since the 1970's), the first-born child of the monarch, male or female, inherits the throne: Sweden therefore currently has a Crown Princess, although she has a younger brother. Or it could be something else entirely. In real life, I seriously doubt that George Lucas had any detailed system of inheritance in mind.

But all the discussion of where Leia gets her title from assumes that it has something to do with her real father: that is, since Anakin Skywalker wasn't a prince, how is his daughter a princess? Does it mean her mother must have been and Leia got the title from her? My opinion is that Leia gets the title from Bail Organa (SW is a fairly traditional fairy tale universe in certain respects) and it doesn't matter that she isn't really his daughter. Everyone believes she is his daughter; probably she even believed it herself until Luke's revelation in ROTJ. To keep her identity secret from Darth Vader, she had to be presented to the world as Bail Organa's natural daughter. This must have been tricky, as her mother would have had only a few weeks to establish a relationship with Bail Organa that would make her pregnancy by him credible.

Though there is another possibility. A hypothetical situation: Luke and Leia's mother never marries Anakin Skywalker, but becomes pregnant by him. After Luke and Leia's conception, Anakin falls to the Dark Side and betrays the Jedi, but he has not yet had his final confrontation with Obi-Wan nor become Darth Vader. Luke and Leia's mother is horrified and decides that she must leave Anakin. But there is a complication: she is pregnant, and she doesn't want Anakin to know because (a) he won't let her leave him as long as she is bearing his child and (b) she doesn't want the child to become Anakin's pawn or to be influenced by him in any way.

So, she goes to Obi-Wan, whom she undoubtedly knows if he and Anakin were great friends, and he, or he and she, concoct a scheme that will not only allow her to leave Anakin, but will actually compel Anakin to dismiss her. It involves Bail Organa, a

friend of both the Skywalkers and the Obi-Wan; he agrees to participate, although perhaps reluctantly, because he too is appalled at what Anakin has become and shares L&L's mother's fears.

L&L's mother thus tells Anakin that she is leaving him because she has fallen in love with Bail Organa, has been meeting with him secretly, and has become pregnant by him. Because the new Anakin is prey to Dark Side emotions such as severe jealousy, he believes this story and is enraged. There appears to be outside confirmation as well, since the conspirators have taken care to drop this interesting information into whatever grapevine exists among the upper classes of Alderaan. Anakin "forces" from L&L's mother the "secret" that Obi-Wan has collaborated in the deception of Anakin and is furious with Obi-Wan as well. (If L&L's mother is related to Obi-Wan in this scenario, Anakin may suspect Obi-Wan of kingmaking, largely because it's something he himself would do in a similar situation.)

As expected, Anakin throws L&L's mother out. He also decides to deal with the traitor Obi-Wan and then go after Bail. This is the proximate cause of Anakin's big confrontation with Obi-Wan, though, of course, there are other reasons as well. He never gets to Bail. Anakin is destroyed in the confrontation with Obi-Wan, or so everyone thinks at the time (maybe he falls into the volcano as rumor has long had it he does). When Darth Vader emerges some time later, only a few people know that he was once Anakin Skywalker.

L&L's mother does marry Bail. At some point she learns she is carrying twins. She and Obi-Wan decide that the birth will take place in secret so that only she, Bail and Obi-Wan will know there were twins. The twins will be separated; Obi-Wan will take one of them to his brother Owen Lars on the backwater world of Tatooine and then "disappear", though he will arrange to watch over the child. If Darth Vader ever finds out that L&L's mother was in fact pregnant by him, he will (hopefully) only learn about one of the children.

The remaining twin will be raised as and believe itself to be Bail's own child. It will also be trained for the resistance movement (the rebellion) that is already taking shape, but fortunately much of this training can be disguised as training appropriate for the heir to the throne. At the appropriate time, it will learn its true parentage and destiny. Presumably there is a provision for telling Luke and Leia the truth about themselves if all the individuals who know it are dead by the time they need to or are ready to know. I imagine this is where Yoda comes in. I imagine Yoda would know what was going on all along, one way or another, since by the time of TESB, he knows more than anyone else.

There are lots of holes in this scenario. One of the big ones is how, if Obi-Wan were closely involved in protecting the twins from the beginning, he could have been ignorant of Leia as the "other", as he seems to in TESB. It's hard to imagine any scenario in which he knew about Luke but not Leia, except some highly unlikely one in which he took Luke and left within minutes of Luke's birth, before Leia was born, and on Tatooine was so completely out of touch with events for the next 20 years that he never learned about Leia's birth. Unless Leia was not the other hope Yoda was referring to after all (I still sometimes fondly believe that Yoda suspected Darth Vader could be turned and that was the hope he meant, but I don't want to open that subject again).

Or maybe there is no scenario that is consistent with all the facts and the inferences that can be made from what we've seen. GL's plotting may not be nearly as intricate, detailed, and devious as we assume. Or it could be worse and he's thrown us lots of red herrings! Well, if the info from Terry Erdman is accurate, maybe we'll find out sometime between now and 1997.

This is much, much longer than I intended to go on, especially on a single subject, so I think I'll end now. Do try to keep your stress levels down so you don't scare all your friends to death again!

Back Again

Marti Schuller
415 S.E. Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

January 3, 1988

Hello, again. I'm back, like the proverbial bad penny. It sure seems odd to type 1988, but by March I should get it right. Well, let's go straight to the letters, shall we?

Melanie Gutierrez: Welcome to the world of SW fans! I, too, felt "new" only a couple of years ago. Although I saw the first film only months after its release, I did not know there was a vast geographically separated, but nonetheless close-knit, family of wonderful fans out there who felt as I did. I, too, learned of it slowly, and am indeed still learning. (Who says SW fandom is on shaky ground?) As an example of my continuing discovery of established SW bedrock, this is only my second letter to SE.

I began with membership to the OSWFC and one pen friend they found for me. Through her and friendship books (another nice discovery), I broadened my experience. Then, in 1985, I worked up the courage to attend, alone, the local science fiction convention called KC Con. To my dismay nearly everyone appeared to be devoted Trekkers, but luckily I persevered and ran smack into Veronica Wilson (it was her Vader button that caught my eye) and Samia Martz, in a line waiting to hear a zine discussion panel. After a short conversation with Samia, who had told me of her co-ed status with WOOKIEE COM-MODE, I confessed to writing my own SW fiction. She graciously agreed to read one of my humble efforts and, to my surprise and utter delight, she accepted it for publication. What joy!

As a writer, I must confess something here. I feel very lucky in many ways to have gotten involved after ROTJ. I had no pre-conceived, committed-to-paper ideas of the trilogy's end, so I was not disillusioned or caught going AU with my ideas. I do now have strong (some would say fanatical) ideas on how the pre-ANH stories should run and may yet prove disappointed or guilty of innocently writing AU works. I also have ideas on post-JEDI plots. I find myself arguing points of opinion with firm conviction, so I look forward to SE and others' comments even more. (After all, my pen friends are sick of my stubborn ideas. I need new victims.)

So again, welcome. We neophytes should stick together. As long as there are "new" fans discovered, or unearthed, SW fandom will grow ever onward.

(If TREK can go for 20 years, are we less loyal? NO!)

Maggie Nowakowska: You raised a point concerning Obi-Wan being unable to "let go" of Anakin as teacher to pupil. I feel this is so good an idea that it should be elaborated on. I attempted feebly to touch on this in my story "A New Age Dawning", but having given more thought to this subject, I honestly feel that Anakin was Obi-Wan's first (and only, until Luke) pupil. Obi-Wan may have undergone some inner doubts and conflicts concerning his own ability to teach once he had begun (having been certain of his talents in the beginning) and thus progressed slowly to cover his own anxiety. Consequently, Anakin would have felt frustrated, thwarted, bound and angry. Like a spoiled, self-centered child, he would have been prone to rebellion against what he viewed as unnecessary restraints. His own impatient nature wouldn't have helped any, nor his desire and drive for success.

I also heartily agree with and like your description of the "general" rank being given to those natural leaders rather than to those who had worked their way up. In a rebellion environ, this not only makes sense, but would be an absolute necessity.

Melanie Rawn: Glad you survived the shake, rattle and roll with only some broken china. I used to live, briefly, in Southern California and luckily escaped such excitement. Only to return to Missouri for the tornado terrors, mind you. ((Ed: Let's not forget, Marti, that the New Madrid earthquakes in 1812 were the most powerful ever recorded in American history, even out-stripping the famous San Francisco quake! Happy thought, huh?))

You asked opinions on ST: THE NEXT GENERATION. I have to agree with Cheree. Wesley makes me gag. Data and even Lt. Yar could prove interesting if given half a chance, but so far as I've seen the show seems to be more fascinated by special effects than good plots. Of course, I'm not a Trekker, but I did at least appreciate the fine writing of the original TV show.

((Ed: The show seems to be improving as it goes. This new batch of episodes is promising. I enjoyed "The Big Goodbye" and feel that the device of the holodeck could give rise to innumerable interesting stories--both on the show and in fandom. It seems to be hitting its stride at last, which is a problem with all new shows and new characters. We may just be impatient with it, expecting perfection from the first. But I do feel that the main thrust has been character development at the expense of good plots. I wish Roddenberry would do with TNG what he did originally--hire professional SF writers to do the scripts and let the character development take care of itself.))

Lisa Thomas: Glad you mentioned THE PRINCESS BRIDE and I hope by now everyone has seen it at least once. It is MARVELOUS!

Carolyn Golledge: Will you stop being less than receptive to praise!? Yes, your stories are basically action/adventure/subtle moral stories, but that does not make them any less well-written than some other's work. Enjoyment is why most readers read in the first place and, lady, you provide it with lavish delight! So there!!

You said you were curious as to what methods other writers use and so am I. As for myself, I usually get a vague idea or thought niggling at the back of my mind. Sometimes it germinates slowly, but usually it catches fire, burning at my brain like a fever until I put it to paper. Other times

I want to pronounce my own PoV so badly that I build a story around it to do so, with firm conviction that many will share it and an equal number will run for their poisoned pens. Besides I LOVE seeing my work in print and hoping that somewhere, someone I've never met is reading my thoughts, my words and reacting to them--whatever that reaction may be. Don't you? It's also a terrific way to get zines at no cost. Now for a question of my own: Does anyone besides me still write their first drafts out longhand or does everyone in the world besides me own a word processor?

By the by, did you mean in your last letter to recommend Veronica Wilson's Vader poetry? If so, I strongly agree. This gal has real understanding of our favorite "bad guy" and has certainly enlightened me considerably, not to mention her obvious talent.

Sorry to hear of the demise of ON THE MARK, but fully understand parental obligations. Frankly, I'm relieved my own sons have grown beyond most of that.

A word of sympathy for Mary Jean Holmes on the death of her mother--you need never feel alone. May your grief be short, your happy memories long.

I missed a word from our ed. Baby Katy keeping mom busy already, Cheree? It's only just begun, my dear. ((Ed: Yep, she keeps me jumping! The only times I have for my zines anymore is when she's asleep and in spare moments at work. I do regret my lost fannish-time, but wouldn't trade her for all the zines in the world!))

One last question for you all to gnaw on. Okay, two. First, in ANH we see blood after Kenobi severs the alien's arm in the cantina, but in TESB Luke seems to shed nary a drop after Vader's cruel assault. Any theories on why, outside of advancing plot by the author? Secondly, were Jedi Knights vegetarians or did they consider plant-life as Force producing, too? Or were there two schools of thought within the Jedi ranks themselves? These issues were raised by an English pen friend, and while I've expressed my humble opinions already, I got curious about other fans' views.

Enough. I'll close before this last ribbon dies on me. I did want to say that I fully plan to attend MWC in 1988 and sincerely hope to meet some of you whose names are so very familiar to me. Hey, it's another first for the neophyte!

Happiest and healthiest of new years to all--and a little prosperity couldn't hurt!!!

Relationships

Dr. Mary Urhausen
42 Three Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402

January 13, 1988

Really great to get another issue of SE! Cheree, I know it seems to you that you barely have time to catch your breath between issues--but when you're the reader, not the publisher, the wait seems interminable! Especially in winter, when contact with other fans at cons is reduced to a minimum, a letterzine like SE is like a ray of sunshine (or is

that a glass of orange juice?? whatever!). ((Ed: Thanks, Mary! Egoboos are always nice!))

I'm glad to see someone finally tackled the old "cosmic chessmaster" myth, especially since it was someone as logical and articulate as Ellen Randolph. Aside from tearing apart some of the whackier cults that have sprung up following ROTJ, I especially liked Ellen's analysis of Leia's character. Personally, I think a lot of fans dislike Leia because she "gets Han." Also, as Ellen points out, she is so many of the things that women are told they should aspire to; I think at times she seems impossibly perfect, too high an ideal to reach. But many times in the saga, my strongest feelings toward Leia are sympathy and admiration. She occupies a rather unenviable position in the Alliance [as a figurehead of the martyred Alderaan, she seems to enjoy more responsibility than power], and her past personal life seems rather tragic. "Getting Han" is about the only fun the poor woman has!

I'm also glad to see several new writers among the LoCs. Since we seem to have lost some of the old writers ["old" in relation to length of time they've written to SE--not chronologically old!], it's good to see we've attracted some fresh perspectives. I'm looking forward to reading their ideas regarding the SW saga.

I wasn't going to address anyone's letter specifically this time, but I just wanted to add one note to one of Tim Blaes' observations. In his comments to Michelle Malkin, Tim generalizes that relationships between gay men tend to be intense and short-lived, whereas relationships between gay women tend to last longer. In my experience, with the gay people I know, Tim's generalization doesn't hold up. Maybe I know some really unusual gays, but with my friends, the men's relationships have been longer-lived and more stable than the women's. Since many gay men and women have at least at one time in their lives been involved in a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, there may be a tendency to fall back on the old and inaccurate portrayals of men being driven by their glands and women being motivated by their hearts, when it comes to relationships. I don't think those old stereotypes hold up any better for men and women in same-sex relationships than they do for men and women in heterosexual relationships! Certainly in fanfic, same-sex relationships between men are usually portrayed as being quite stable, even if they are "intense"! Since we have very little precedent for female same-sex relationships in fanfic, it's hard to say if women are accorded the same view.

That brings up an interesting subject: Why is there so little "slash" fanfic in SW? I know at least some has been written--I've seen it! Some of it is very imaginative and well-done, too. But compared to other fandoms (and not just ST), it seems to be a sub-genre without a home! Certainly, no one has come out with a zine devoted to it (at least, not that I'm aware of; if there is such a zine, I'd love to see it!). Is the influence of the infamous Lucasfilm brouhaha still so widespread? It certainly suppressed "straight" sexually-explicit SW fanfic; only now are we beginning to see that come out of the closet (*groan!* bad pun!). I'm not saying I want to see SW fandom go through the kind of schism and upheaval that K/S wrought on ST fandom; but I'm curious why SW slash, even though it's being written--and written by some extremely good writers--isn't finding a publisher. Are we still looking over our shoulder for The Men From Lucasfilm? Or do we think no one out there will

buy and read it...heh heh heh--come on! You know they'll buy and read it! ((Ed: All you gentle readers out there will have probably recognized by now that Mary is one of the Queens of Smut in fandom. But, then, what would you expect of a person who guarantees that her zine has something to offend everyone?))

There, now that I've offended half of SE's readers, let's see if I can irritate the other half! I'm going to tackle the second-wormiest can in current fandom: burn-out. Writers get it; editors and publishers get it; just plain fans get it. It can affect everything from keeping just one person from actively participating in fandom, to the folding of entire zines and conventions. Unfortunately, in the past it has also all-too-often been used as an excuse for monetary mismanagement. There probably aren't too many fans who have been active in fandom for several years, especially if they buy a lot of zines, who hasn't been "burned" themselves at least once by the "zine-ed burn-out" cop-out. Sometimes, whether or not a fan is really burned-out, it has been used as an excuse for why your deposit, or even full payment, on a zine has vanished--and the zine will never see print. Some fans, in their enthusiasm for their favorite genre, have gotten in way over their heads, committing time, energy and money that they just didn't have to some grandiose project that never had a realistic hope of survival. If they'd just be honest, instead of citing "burn-out", as if that absolved them from all financial and moral responsibility! This is the kind of thing that gives all of fandom, especially zine publishing, a black eye. I can understand burn-out; I've felt a little "scorched" a few times myself, both professionally and in fandom. But I can't understand or tolerate using burn-out as an all-purpose excuse for irresponsible behavior. I won't add any more details; I'm sure many of the rest of you could add some real "horror stories" of your own!

Well, I better quit while I'm ahead! If I've missed offending any of you--I'll catch you next issue!

Rebuttal

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

January 15, 1988

Hello and a happy look to spring to everyone. Although winter has been mild here in the Pacific NW, I know elsewhere it has been a bear.

No long flights of conjecture this time, just a mish mash of thoughts in reaction to the last batch of letters. Don't everyone cheer at once.

First off, to Dr. Urhausen: Mary, how in the hell am I to keep this letter within a reasonable number of pages if you want me to report on any and all of my recent buttheadedness? Woman, do you want me to support the whole PO for the first quarter? Sheish. To everyone not at MWC 7, most spe-

cifically not at the sex panel, the previous is to be ignored. Please.

Ellen Randolph's article was a nice piece of reverse logic. I know she's got her tongue a sly bit in her cheek here, and she knows all the following arguments anyway because I told her so on the phone, but after rereading the article one more time, I'm going to go out on a feminist limb and argue with some of the ways Leia is discussed.

First, the assertion that we never see Leia at work. Cripes, we seldom see the woman except at work. She's working on the Death Star; she's working on Hoth; she's working on Tatooine and on Endor. The only place she isn't obviously working is Bespin, but I'll lay you dollars to donuts her senatorial/Alliance brain is on overdrive the whole time there. Just because we don't get to be voyeurs regarding her and Han's relationship, doesn't mean we haven't seen her involved in any meaningful activity.

Further, if her kisses with Han are chaste and imply her as yet unachieved potential as "a woman in love", then Han's kisses are likewise chaste and therefore imply the same thing, his as yet unachieved potential as a "man in love." Now, if that sounds a bit silly regarding Solo, I suggest that it sounds the same regarding Leia. If the implication is such about both of them, fine, but let's dispense with the double standard that a woman's passion is only fulfilled in copulation.

While I'm being picky, there was nothing wrong with Leia's weight in the first movie; by the third movie, I wanted to sit her down to a nice meal of gravy and ice cream. She looks drawn and altogether too thin; I certainly hope her alliance with Han works the way get-togethers here on earth often work--by returning a few pounds she didn't need to lose.

Last, the senator isn't liked because American women are taught to be competitive with each other to a ridiculous degree. Guys can be competitive and still like and admire someone who is as accomplished as Leia. If a guy actively disliked Han Solo for reasons comparable to the reasons the article gives for gals disliking Leia, people would consider him immature and laugh at his envy. Hell, the guys who really dump on Luke immediately earn sideways glances and "methinks they protest too much" awards. However, it's "understood" if a girl (and I use that term on purpose 'cause I can't imagine an adult woman having such problems) dislikes Leia because she's so accomplished. The notion that a woman cannot be admired for her human talents, only envied if she has found a man to give herself to, belongs to darker ages than this. I don't know of a single strong, capable-of-supporting-herself fan adult who happens to be female who dislikes Leia for reasons such as "she doesn't have to redo her lipstick or recomb her hair."

End of polemic. ((Ed: But I'm still wondering where she hid her tube of lip gloss in ANH!))

Lin Ward: I like, I like. "Once you turn to the Fandom side, forever will it dominate your destiny!"

Welcome to Melanie Gutierrez! You are definitely not alone. I know of a woman locally who honestly believed she was the only person who ever wrote fan stories, in her case, based on DARK SHADOWS. She was even in therapy to find out why she was so different. Then she met a fan...

And yes, I remember going to the umpteenth screening of ANH and being so involved in my newly unfolding fannish SW universe that I just about

expected my Naom Pre to walk across the screen or at least be referred to when Obi-Wan told Luke about Luke's father...I laugh myself silly at the memory of such self-absorption, but you certainly aren't alone with that fantasy!

Ming Wathne: Hiyahi. False death notices of fans are, unfortunately, not unprecedented. It seems odd, but apparently someone saw the example of another fan (Jani Hicks) and rather than thinking, How Weird!, thought instead that it was a Neat Idea (shades of Ollie North!). There are times when I wish media fandom were as upfront with its soiled linen as SF fandom is. We really don't talk to each other in public about the dark side of our fandom and thus end up leaving new fans--and not so new but out of the mainstream fans--vulnerable to unscrupulous fans about whom we could have warned them.

If you discover a way to earthquake proof the SW plates, let the rest of us westcoasters know. Although, like Melanie Rawn, I gladly trade yearly tornados and subzero temperatures for our rare earthquakes, nevertheless, the NW is overdue on its 20-year cyclic shake-up. While I'm shudder-proofing the bookcases, I might as well do the other valuable nicknacks.

Although I agree with you that Solo was simply hiding a gentle side of himself in ANH, I do think Han changed some over the course of time defined by the movies. I think I remember Ford once saying that in ANH all three characters were faced with becoming something different than they had been, that they faced a choice regarding that change and that if Han hadn't met Luke and Leia, he probably wouldn't have chosen the path we saw develop in TESB and JEDI. Extrapolating on that line, it could be said that while Solo pre-ANH had the caring and such in him, if the circumstances of his life didn't change, that ability to care might have atrophied beyond expression in everyday life. We all know people who have forgotten how to be what they once were. Anakin, as Vader, forgot a great deal and only a dire and unexpected circumstance caused him to remember. Although I am certainly glad Han was able to ease out of his shell and accept the changes facing him, I can still believe that in another reality, he might have hardened beyond easy recapture and might have one day faced as difficult, for him, a change as Vader/Anakin did.

Back to Mary Urhausen: Actually, the Film Comment article didn't bother me too much. Although the author certainly seems bewildered, and a bit concerned in the condescending way, he is nowhere near as nasty and "look at the freaks"-oriented as many such articles. Comments on the "religion" of TREK are 20-years-old, and although this author went looking for the same, he conceded that SW fans have not earned a cult status. Instead of sneering at the way SDI has absorbed the title STAR WARS, implying that SW deserves such nasty connections, he recognized that Lucas doesn't like the association. He did not go out of his way to call us names.

Having it recognized that I am one of those people who didn't fit in in High School is no insult. I love the LA Filkharmonics song, "Wonks, Wimps and Nerds." I was without doubt a Wonk and though it was a bit more painful socially than being one of the In Crowd, what I learned while being one has helped me a hell of a lot more in my adult life than putting "Cheerleader" on my resume might.

In fact, the author made a few very interesting points that I think fans overlook because we're too

close to things. Such as the undercurrent of fannish identification with Lucas as opposed to with Lucas' MarySue character, Luke. Such as the fact that FIAWOL and FIAGDH affects media fandom as much as SF fandom. Such as the fact that Lucas doesn't want us to worship him like Trekkers have Gene Roddenberry, and that this is Good. I think we need to step out of our shoes every once in a while and see ourselves as others do, if only so we can react to them with understanding. I know I'm not weird, not eccentric, and I wear the accepted business disguise in the office, but if you asked the people I work with, I'm sure they'd reply that I was totally Off the Scale. It helps me come to terms with my mundane life if I remember that, like it or not, I am strange to people who really don't have more in their lives than their work, who they're going drinking with on the weekend, who's sleeping with whom among their friends, and 4 to 5 hours of TV watched every day.

I've actually been advised, on the quiet, that people at work are jealous of the fact that I'm not forced to sit in on the local gossip sessions at lunch hour 'cause I've got plenty to do instead (write letters to fannish friends, work on fannish projects, read, read and read), and are resentful of the reality that I don't need to be social with co-workers, whether I like them or not, because I have a full social life of my own outside Boeing. If anything, articles like this one remind me to be kinder to mundanes. Many of them do have an inkling of what they're missing, but are so compelled by conformity that they never break out of their "normal" prisons.

I'll second Chris Callahan's advice to go to the police immediately if you're accosted. Bev Clark, Susan Matthews and I were held up in San Francisco in 1980 and, due to a quick phone call by a merchant and Bev's sharp eye, the guy was booked within half an hour. Had a record pages long and the police were very glad to have caught him.

Chris and others continue the subject of Mary Sue stories and in that vein, I'd like to offer a quote I recently read that addresses, from the writer's PoV, the problem of why so many stories don't work. Since we all know of stories, plays, movies and the such that have characters that could be called Mary Sues but which never suffer from that accusation, I think it's safe to say that it is possible to write all the MS characters we want just so long as we don't fall into the habits described below:

"...if you are writing stories, you must never be an advocate of your characters. Never be saying (in so many words), 'See what a fascinating heroine this is, how adorable; how fine and brave the hero!' "Now this would be all right if it were effective. But the trouble is the more you try to say your heroine is wonderful, the more your readers will look at her dubiously. They know you are lying in a way, that you really don't see her clearly in your imagination as an actual and living person, but you are trying to put her over on them; you are a propagandist for her. And the more you describe her adorable traits, the more they will just have an unpleasant feeling that the writer is a self-adoring prig.

"...
"I have so often been troubled by my own stories, especially those I wanted to be particularly ...earnest and uncompromising. All the characters in them (except for the villain) would seem to be ME and it might be read like this:

"I love," said Brenda Ueland to Brenda Ueland.
"I love you, too," Brenda answered shyly, with a sincere look on her fine, strong face.

"I read many stories in the magazines like that. The author need not be a hopelessly conceited ass either, but is often quite nice. I think it happens because such writers are not writing truthfully and objectively, but trying to put something over, to prove dishonestly and indirectly to the reader that their characters are so splendid. And that is propaganda, advertising writing, and not the truth.

"No, the characters must come fully to life in your imagination. Then objectively and accurately tell just how they looked and what they did. If they were fascinating and adorable, it will show. And it will be believed. But always try to write honestly."

From: IF YOU WANT TO WRITE, Brenda Ueland, Greywolf Press, ISBN 0-915308-94-0.

I second Lisa Thomas' recommendation of THE PRINCESS BRIDE. Fun movie! And, I'll add a recommendation of the TV series, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

Tim Blaes: The SW Lending Library insisted on editorial permission to circulate zines first, as a matter of courtesy to the fannish editors, and second, because we make a photocopy of each zine requested and circulated that instead of the original zine. You just don't get printed material past a reputable photocopy shop without proof of permission.

The amount of support secondary characters gets is chancy, and on that note I have to apologize to Tim for not getting back to him regarding his own letterzine, dedicated to Saavik and the Romulan aspect of the ST universe. He was kind enough to send me a copy of the first issue, but it got buried in my desk. Too much to do, too little time, and I admit, in the long run, not enough interest in movie Trek's secondary characters. I suppose that the ideal situation would be the inclusion of secondary discussions in the primary outlets; that way primary support can keep the secondary alive through sheer numbers. I hope, Tim, that you're having better luck elsewhere!

I'll close with a great bumpersticker I saw (and if any one can tell me where to get one for myself, thanks ahead of time. When I repainted my car, I lost my "Walk softly and carry a lightsaber" one):

METAPHORS BE WITH YOU!

Cutesy Comment

Lin S. Ward
1703 Heritage Hill Drive
Richmond, VA 23233

January 23, 1988

It's great to hear from SE again! Hope everyone's holidays were fun! I enjoyed the articles in this issue. Ellen Randolph's essay about Han Solo was very persuasive, as was her vignette about Leia in ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBALH 3--Brrr! Maggie's review of the Joseph Campbell special makes

me hope they'll rerun it soon! I'm glad to be able to match June Edwards' name to her familiar face, too.

I'd already seen that loathsome review by Marc Mancini. I'm accustomed to the potshots at fans, but I really take exception to his conclusion that escapist movies are what we need to escape--a foundationless, copout, cutesy comment that would've made him an "A" in journalism class, I guess.

My biggest fannish news lately is that I'd been out of the mood for reading SW zines for about 6 months, then suddenly got in the mood to "go home" (as GL puts it), and started devouring my stack from MWC with joyful abandon. Can't wait to load up again this May! I have a line on a Luke doll, that's gotten me so excited, you'd think it was the Real Thing! I almost even sent in my check for that Imperial Walker plate, but my budget prevailed. Besides, as my payment was due in November, I've probably lost my "exclusive series rights" anyway. That next plate with Luke and Yoda on Dagobah looks terrific, though. What did everyone think of the Leia plate? I was disappointed; the portrait isn't as good as the Han portrait, I don't think. Ohhh, that Han plate...

Maggie Nowakowska: Interesting theory that Ben couldn't let go of his trainee. He surely wouldn't be the first teacher/mentor to react that way. If Ben later recognized this as one of his faults, it might have been a factor in his decision to disorporate on the Death Star, and also might account for his telling Luke he couldn't help him on Bespin.

Vis a vis the Hawaiian shamanism--the descriptions of Way of the Warrior and Way of the Adventurer could both describe Luke's development to date, but I like to think of his further growth as following the Way of the Adventurer, where he can have some fun and friendship--what a lovely concept! The way you contrast Ben and Yoda's Warrior goals to Luke's love and friendship (Adventurer) goals is very appealing.

I like your description of Palpatine's involvement with the Force as dogma, rather than hands on, in other words, lacking the spirit and heart of the thing? The appeals of logic, order, and new technology explored through the Clone Wars are quite credible and fit in so well with the part of the saga we've seen, which seems to emphasize the human element over technology, perhaps a return to these values.

Ming Wathne: It's always tantalizing to hear about clips in the trilogy that never made it to my theater. *sigh* What I wouldn't give to see some of the scenes they tossed away! Your comments on brain-washing are interesting--is that what happened to Vader--he became un-brainwashed?

Melanie Rawn: Whew, glad to hear you escaped the latest upheaval uninjured and surely hope that's the last one for a long time! How are the various writing projects progressing? Will you have a new zine ready for MWC? Is it time to start watching for your books at B. Dalton's?

Chris Callahan: Sorry to hear about your robbery. If I'd been in your place, I probably would have returned to my office, and lost the chance to get the guy caught! Good for you!

Vonnie Fleming: Best wishes in your new situation. Hope you can rejoin us soon!

Lisa Thomas: Ha, enjoyed your anecdote about asking Mary what a zine was. The first one I ordered was an issue of FAR REALMS. I didn't know why one was asked to send a SASE. I guessed it was to mail the zine in, and I sent Jeanine one of those

big 8"x11-1/2" envelopes. Wouldn't you love to have seen her face when she pulled that thing out of my envelope?

I loved THE PRINCESS BRIDE, too, for the lovely photography, the handsome hero, and the hilarious spoofing of Errol Flynn swashbucklers. Several of my friends haven't liked it; I wonder if you have to be a swashbuckler fan to enjoy a spoof of same?

Catherine Churko: I think there are lots of possibilities about Ben's teaching. About the only thing I feel safe in assuming is that Obi-Wan had more than one pupil because he refers to Vader as "a pupil of mine." My impression was that the relationship was one master to each student, because Ben's comments indicated he felt solely responsible for Vader's fall. But I suppose it's possible that Ben was the key person or top authority in a group who selected students; or Ben may have been Anakin's only instructor at a critical point in the training, or Ben may have defied someone or some group's advice and continued working with Anakin after he was ordered or advised to stop. It doesn't seem right to me that all Jedi would be teachers, because I don't think every person can be a good teacher. It seems more likely to me there were various careers for Jedi, depending on their abilities and the Jedi affiliation gave them sort of a philosophy and code that they lived by. Obi-Wan did not seem to demonstrate as much skill as Yoda; I don't think he was on the same level as Yoda.

I've seen at least two stories about Palpatine's early years--if I remember where I saw 'em, I'll let you know, but for now, yes, they're out there!

Tim Blaes: It's an exciting idea that Luke's mother's death might be the last thing to send Vader over the edge--it had never occurred to me before, but it makes sense; my only quibble is that if Anakin stayed with L&L's mother until the end, why didn't he know about the twins? Vader seemed to be unaware of Leia's existence until ROTJ. Hmmm, Mrs. S. goes into labor; Anakin rushes to town to find a doctor, and while he's gone, the twins are born and spirited away, and by the time Anakin returns, Mrs. S. is dead, or the house was blown up, or something? Well, it needs work, but the original idea is very romantic.

Carolyn Golledge: Now that you mention it, I seem to remember thinking when I saw ROTJ for the first time, that forest fires would figure in the plot when the Death Star blew, and then, of course, instead we saw celebrations, and I was distracted. I think it's an interesting story line. What a poignant counterpoint to all the celebrating--around 3 a.m., as everyone is staggering off to bed, some pathetic, charred fugitives of the Big Blaze burst on the scene, take one look at the Rebels, and...

A final note--I was interested in a recent restaurant review to see a description of the calamari (fried squid). Gee, I thought George made that up!

May the Force bless us, everyone--see you next time!



Barbara Brayton
1550 Sherman #303
Denver, CO 80203

January 24, 1988

Hi! I'm too lazy to get out my typewriter, sorry!

"Why Han Solo, etc."--There was a blaster aimed at Luke (and everyone else on Yavin)--the Death Star itself. Had he not blown it up, they all would have died. As to manipulation, there are various kinds. Suppose he hadn't gotten Han to rescue the princess, for instance. I think Luke was ready to go to Han and Leia right away, but Yoda tried to talk him out of it. He went as soon as he could.

It's stated that Han kills only when necessary; so does Leia. The way I see it, she's just doing what she has to do at the time, the same as Han does. Not much point in running around Bespin looking for Luke when she doesn't know where he is, and particularly when she herself has no means of escape. It's not as if Leia wanted to leave him; she certainly didn't look very happy about it. She ran right over Lando's objection to going back.

You could argue that Han was just plain stupid to chase off down that Death Star corridor. There's something to be said for thinking before you act. Why is he let off the hook in terms of his behavior?

Actually, I haven't heard much about this subject at all. There was a story in KESSEL RUN that mentioned a puppet master, but that's about all. I prefer to just treat it as an exercise.

That was a pretty condescending article by Marc Mancini. He went in with a preconceived notion and chose only those things that fit it. That's too bad, but it's his problem. I notice the dealer--who was quoted as saying all these fans were ready to commit suicide--didn't hesitate to make money off them.

Very sad about Richard Marquand. Who's to say what he might have gone on to accomplish?

Marti Schuller: Yes, I've read THE BELGARIAD and GUARDIANS OF THE WEST and loved them.

Lin Ward: I'm also buying the SW plates. It was Han Solo that did it, but they are all quite lovely. If only I had a place to put them! ((Ed: Same here. I've got Han displayed on my bookshelf, but no room at all for the other plates. I need a bigger house!!))

Cheree: You were in Denver? If only we'd known, it would have been so nice to meet you. Let us know if you come again. ((Ed: You bet! This was sort of last-minute trip with friends and I didn't know what the plans were or even where we would be staying, so I couldn't let anyone know ahead of time. But I loved Denver and I do want to come back for a longer visit in the near future! Meanwhile, if anyone is coming to Dallas, let me know!))

Maggie Nowakowska: I've meant to write you about TW, but this is as good a place as any. Reading THE BATTLE FOR RYANAN, I could have sworn Iain Diamond got killed. Yet the timeline says he died during the liberation of Jockto. What's going on? Are there any other changes? I didn't buy Volume 3 of TW COLLECTED, because I thought it was just a reprint of SKYWALKER 5.

Ming Wathne: Yes, Luke says, "I can't kill my father," but then Kenobi replies, "Then the Emperor has already won." So what did he mean by that?

Carolyn G.: If I'm not mistaken, the Ewoks

used torches for light and had fires as well.

I'm not surprised Solo gets shot!

"Journey Into Darkness" in WOOKIEE COMMODE 4 was wonderful! It was so realistic and touching, especially the ending. Thank you for a pleasant reading experience.

I, too, like Patricia's "Starsword" but she makes me crazy with her cliffhanger endings and constantly putting her characters in jeopardy with no end in sight.

That's it! Bye!

Defending Luke

Cindy Rodriguez
21512 Vera Street
Carson, CA 90745-1733

January 19, 1988

With a title like "Why Han Doesn't Measure Up", I was prepared to defend our favorite rogue. As it turns out, I found myself agreeing with Ellen Randolph in regards to Han, but unfortunately that's the extent of my agreement with her. I'm a Luke fan and I think I'm an enlightened one when it comes to Han Solo. I admit I didn't like Han at first, but I learned to appreciate him by the end of ROTJ. I, also, admit I think Luke is perfect. Of course, he has problems, but I resent Ellen's assault on my favorite Jedi. I'd like to answer each of her attacks on Luke Skywalker.

(1) Luke hesitates to help Han and Leia on Bespin. The emphasis should be on "hesitates." Luke does go to help his friends. Please excuse Luke for being young. When faced with sacrificing his friends for Yoda's greater good, Luke just wasn't sure what to do. TESB was the testing of Luke. It's his time to grow up and make his life decisions. Okay, so Luke took some extra time to make this difficult choice.

(2) Luke manipulates Han to rescue Leia. Hey, Luke just met Han. Can you blame him for thinking Han's first priority in life is making money? Maybe Han couldn't admit he'd help someone out of the goodness of his heart and Luke gave him a way to "save face."

(3) Luke manipulates Leia. I'm not sure how Leia is manipulated. Does that mean if Luke didn't make it back, Leia would feel compelled to develop her Force powers and try to defeat Vader and/or the Emperor? It seems Leia would welcome any chance to destroy the Empire. She worked hard on behalf of the Alliance and has applied all her knowledge and skills to that cause. I don't think Leia would be reluctant to use any Force abilities she might have for the sake of the Rebellion.

(4) Luke is arrogant. In drawing his saber on Vader, Luke was not making a gesture of arrogance, but one of inexperience and bravado. When has Luke faced a Force master? How could he know his powers are no match for the Dark Lord? Consider how Luke faces Vader the second time. He instantly submits and gives up his saber. He has total respect for the Dark Side. Arrogance in flying the X-wing at the end of ANH? Again, how many of us couldn't wait to get our driver's licenses? Did we think

driving a car was difficult? Kids think they can do anything and Luke is no exception.

(5) Luke is a ruthless killer because he destroyed the Death Star. Ellen describes Han's kills as unplanned eliminations of immediate and direct threats. If the Grand Moff Tarkin's plans to vaporize Yavin at the exact moment Luke fires the torpedo into the reactor shaft is not immediate, I don't know what is. As for direct, I agree Han qualifies on this count when he blasts Greedo. But later Ellen complains that Luke is not remorseful for his killings. I didn't see Han shedding any tears over Greedo. And I consider Greedo as Han's only direct hit. George Lucas was smart in creating the stormtroopers' costumes. We can't see people in that white armor. When they're blasted, we don't have to think there might be living, breathing people in there. Ellen, also, says the number of victims matters. I say one victim is not any less horrendous than a hundred.

(6) Luke thought of killing Vader all by himself. Maybe so, but Luke was also the only one who thought Vader could be turned back to the Light Side!

I'm glad Ellen decided not to attack Luke's behavior in ROTJ. This rebuttal would have been longer! But I regret having to write it at all. I'm sorry that in arguing successfully for Han's case, Ellen had to drag Luke's name (I haven't forgotten Leia!) through the mud. I thought we were past building up Han or Luke by making the other one look bad.

Obi-Wan Isuzu?

Melanie Gutierrez
6017 West End Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124-1933

Greetings Gang!

Been warned you have, so here goes... Any of you care to answer a few questions for me before I lay five years of theory and comment on you? I hope so, 'cause I'd like to get an idea of where SE's readers' heads are regarding the SW saga's beginnings and endings. Now I know we may all be old and grey before GL (more on him later!) gives us the only version that counts, but we can speculate and the way I see it no details can be bandied about unless one first decides on the likely approach. So...how many of you see SW as an exhilarating, epic adventure and how many strongly suspect that the real story, when viewed in its entirety, is not only mystical but mythical? The next logical question being, whose myth?

Do I hear groans out there? Well, I do realize that you may have all discussed this before during the past years; but I haven't had anyone to bounce ideas off of, so I'd like anyone who would care to spare others to write me. I'll gladly debate any and all theory.

Let me give you all an idea of where my head is; I'll sum it up in one statement. Kenobi is the Joe Isuzu of that galaxy (if he told me night follows day, I'd check for myself); Luke is a true

tragic hero, the victor who is the victim; the Emperor was not just a politician and whatever he was isn't finished yet! (Is that a cackle right before the credits roll on JEDI?) And the "certain point of view" we should be analyzing is Lucas'. His beliefs, values and morality are at the core of SW. Research, insofar as is possible, into what influenced him will provide us with the correct viewpoint with which to analyze the Saga.

Which brings me to a real sore subject...George Lucas and the curious love/hate feelings he inspires. Lucas, as far as I am concerned, is only as good as his last effort. His creations stand on their own merit; separate entities, just as children are from their parents. The trouble being, his last efforts are lousy. Whatever glowing reputation SW earned George is being tarnished by the dismal flops he persists on wasting valuable years on. Years he could have spent completing the one and only brilliant idea he is capable of, in my opinion. But for George to admit to himself that SW is his one and only avenue of success is to accept limitation--something an ego as inflated as his may never do. So what are we faced with? A man who, when he's told he "can't" says "watch me!" and when he's told "you have to!" says "make me!". So, we wait. But not forever; at least not me. I, for one, won't stand for being taken for granted. GIVE ME STAR WARS OR GIVE ME NOTHING! Are you listening, George? Does the name Custer mean anything to you? In fact, Anonymous, you wanna boycott something? How about any LFL offering that isn't Episode I? I am! Financial failure may shrink GL's ego as well as his bank account and convey our wishes most eloquently. Mr. Lucas has a lot to learn about keeping his customers satisfied. Larger concerns than Lucasfilm have folded because they ignored the laws of supply and demand.

Ooohhhh, I've wanted to get that off my chest for sooooo long!

A few comments before I get back to my illos...

Maggie Nowakowska: Your research into the religious basis for SW closely parallels my own. I've read it all--Campbell, Castaneda, Astrotheology, Cosmology, and so many books on mysticism, religion and philosophy that I'll soon need an astroid to keep my notes straight. I've found elements of SW in all of it, and the best and brightest of all of it in SW. I haven't found that book on shamanism yet, but if you want the Force and Kenobi's "death" in SW/ANH explained, read Castaneda's new book THE POWER OF SILENCE. Incredible. I'd like your views on where it's all going to end.

If anyone knows where I can get 10th anniversary lapel pins and such, PLEASE let me know. Also, am I crazy (no, I don't want voting on that, and besides you don't know me well enough, yet) but does the Emperor laugh at the end of ROTJ? Signing off now, so everyone can go "huh?". Remember...the Empires of the future are Empires of the mind. Fly casual!



Melanie Rawn
1706 Fair Oaks, Apt. J
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and warm New Year, and that by the time this is printed those of you in the Frozen North have thawed out.

Thanks for the congrats. The books will be printed under mine own name--"Ellen Randolph" write the Regencies (THE RUSHDEN LEGACY) and the SW stuff, but I'm taking the blame for the fantasy work myself. The first might be out by August or so. But, as with fanzine publishing, don't hold your breath.

Speaking of zines, SANCTUARY will be out by MediaWest.

Debbie Kittle: Duncan Regehr as Anakin, huh? Check out Marty Siegrist's illos for "Pavane for a Dead Princess" in GUARDIAN 7. (Mama Skywalker is Linda Ronstadt!)

Melanie Gutierrez: Welcome! Did your mother get the name from GONE WITH THE WIND, too? I have a theory that our name gets used in cycles of about 6-8 years, everytime they re-released the movie to the theaters in the 40s, 50, and 60s. It seems to hold up, too; most other Melanies I've met fit the age pattern. I was amused to find in one of last year's college alumnae bulletins that a woman I knew who was definitely into fantasy and sf named her newborn Alaric Duncan. Yup. And I betcha the number of Lukes went up in 1977-78, 1980-81, and 1983-84. When I was teaching, the kids were all Jennifers, Kimberlys, Jasons, and Davids--except for two poor girls born around 1970 whose presumably flower-child parents decided to burden them with "Misty Hills" and "Windy Woods". So help me.

((Ed: I have a cousin that age whose name is "Misty Dawn Day." Gahhh..that's why I vowed to give my children nice normal names, hence "Katharine Elizabeth." I had to grow up with "Gayla Cheree", which no one has ever been able to spell or pronounce!))

On the topic of names, what about "Skywalker" and "Darklighter"? Evocative to say the least. They sound like the old English craft-names (Fletcher, Miller, Thatcher, Fisher, etc.), not the identification names (Fleming, Hollander; Powell ("ap Hywl," son of Hywl), Johnson), or place-names (Ford, Churchill, Atwood). What sort of craft would a Skywalker do? Pilot, of course; navigator through the stars or across water when all they had were sextants and starcharts. As for Darklighter--perhaps they did just that. It brings to mind a charming picture of old-time London lamplighters, doesn't it? Later they might have had a planetary monopoly on the power systems or something. There are dozens of names one could think up to describe crafts in their literal sense--Sailrider for captains of ocean-going vessels, Starwatcher for astronomers, and so on.

But they also sound like the sobriquets given in certain Amerind tribes, with more mystical connotations. Were the Skywalkers the local shamans, to tie in with Maggie's last letter? I used "Sun-bringer" and "Clouddancer" because I liked their sound without really considering how such names would originate, but now that I think of it they're also very suggestive of a more magical approach than a craft one. And the Darklighters--given the Dark/Light aspects of the Force, this one is the most intriguing of all. Were they the ones who brought light to the darkness or does the name connote the duality itself, implying both in one person? If the latter, then Biggs might have been a

very dangerous man to know!

Melanie again: Obviously, we wouldn't be writing this stuff if we didn't believe it. In the process of making yourself believe your fill-ins and extensions of the films (a belief that is essential before you can get readers to accept your version of what happened), you get so immersed in working things out and making it all fit together that, yes, your version becomes The Version. I can't watch the Death Star attack scenes in SW:ANH anymore without thinking, "Oh, yeah--there's Jessalyn's father." I can't see Obi-Wan smiling his odd little smile at Han's "no mystical Force controls my destiny" lines without giggling at the surprise I've got waiting in the Corellian's future. It's egocentric and presumptuous--but it happens to us all. Considering the amount of puzzle solving, hair pulling, and sheer slavery involved in putting together a universe that works for you, it would be astonishing if you didn't end up believing yours more than anybody else's. I find, for example, that other writers' universes are fascinating permutations, but they're not what really happened, not insofar as I'm concerned. It's safe to say they feel the same way about my work. You can't invest so much of your time and self in something without becoming powerfully attached to it.

But here's where we get into the touchy realm of point of view. "I don't think Han would say that" is my problem, not the author's. It would be grossest arrogance to state the objection as "Han wouldn't say that" because what I really mean, after all, is that Han as I write him wouldn't. Not Maggie's Han, not Jenni's. Mine.

It's fine to think that one's own universe is The Way It Happened; it's even fine to harbor a smug suspicion that one has out-Lucased Lucas. 'Fess up, all of us who write SW fanfic feel that way, or we wouldn't be writing and publishing. But what you write is first and foremost for yourself. You want to know what happened between scenes, what happened next, what happened to make a character the way s/he is. So you write it, make it a satisfying excursion through the Lucasworlds you love so much, make it work. For yourself. Of course, you believe it more than you do anybody else's! Why shouldn't you?

If I've shattered an illusion that writers write solely for the entertainment of the audience, sorry about that. We're all very selfish, folks; convincing you that this is what happened next is secondary to convincing ourselves. It's nice when you believe it, too--it means we've done a good job. But if we don't believe it, you won't even come close. So if we do seem egocentric and presumptuous about our universes, give us a break. Try writing your own sometime and watch the same thing happen to you!

By the way, as an aside to Maggie (whose letter was indeed read to me over the phone), you are a nasty, evil, vile, vicious, despicable person, and it's a privilege to know you.

Re: the new TREK--I'm one of those people who tends to see potential and gets impatient with waste of same. I quite agree with our gracious editor: space the kid ASAP. But as for the rest of it--I'm growing fonder of these people and I wish the scripts were better. I adored watching Majel Barrett chew up the scenery. Recall, please, that it took the old TREK at least half a season to find its space-legs; I'm looking forward to the same happening over the next 6 or 8 episodes of the new.

Small geophysical point: Tremors go through

the ground as it trembles in a tremblor. A trembler is what you become during an earthquake...

License plate frame of the month: "My other car is a TARDIS!"

((Ed: Bumper sticker on my own car: "My other car is a starship."))

First LoC

Sarah Cohen
2004 Bush St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

January 16, 1988

Hello! This is definitely my first LoC. In fact, this is my first active participation in fandom. Thank you, Cheree, for publishing SE, and congratulations on the birth of your daughter. (Have you gotten tired of hearing that yet?) But really, you think that you can take care of a baby, work and continue publishing all your various zines? Good luck!! ((Ed: Hey, this thing'll do point five past light speed! No problem!))

First of all, thank you to all the other new people writing to SE. There are times when I think I'm the only person who hasn't been involved in SW fandom for ever and ever. But as long as there are new people getting involved, SW won't keel over and die.

Marti Schuller: So, you liked the BELGARIAD? It's ever-so-slightly familiar territory for a SW fan, what with Garion ("I can't! It's impossible!"), Belgarath ("Use the Force, Luke!"), Silk ("Kid, I've been from one end of this galaxy to another...") and company. But, seriously, as far as I'm concerned, part of what makes a book or movie good is an ability to relate to other books, movies, etc. That's why I love cross-universe stories.

Debbie Kittle: Interesting, what you think Mon Mothma does or doesn't know. Personally, I think Bail was much more likely to know all about Luke and Leia than MM. Although it's doubtful that Mrs. S didn't know she had twins, Ben might have told her that Luke died at birth. But if you think Darth was surprised to find out about Luke, imagine how he felt about Leia! After all, he knew her pretty well, without ever sensing that they were related.

I know exactly how you feel about discovering SW fandom, Melanie Guttierrez!

Maggie Nowakowska: I can't begin to respond to everything you said, but if you're interested in shamanism, you'd probably like reading Joseph Campbell's work. Try THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES.

I always assumed that the SW Republic fell rather like the Roman one. It got so big that it started to fall apart, and Palpatine stepped in at the end to restore order and hold everything together. At first, he probably seemed pretty benevolent, if not a godsend, since he was preventing the collapse of civilization. Perhaps the chaos which allowed him to come to power was created by the Clone Wars. Anyway, by the time people started realizing how evil he was, it was too late to stop him.

Mary Urhausen: About fandom and reality, I've always considered science fiction and fantasy just another way of looking at reality. Surely it's no more escapist than watching football, or sailing a boat, neither of which have much to do with the "real world"! I know a lot of people who are just as involved in sailing as we are in fandom, if not more so, but they don't get any flak about not being able to handle reality. (Sorry, I think I'd better stop this line of reasoning before I become anymore self-righteous!) ((Ed: If you want a real fantasy trip, try attending a gun show sometime! We fans all look VERY normal and mundane compared to that segment of society!))

Melanie Rawn: It's nice to hear that people in Southern California get hit by earthquakes, too. Up here they're usually over before I manage to bother getting up and standing in a doorway, but, of course, you're just not as used to them as we are. But really, I'm glad to hear that you weren't hurt. Loved your article, but if Han Solo were the Cosmic Chessmaster or whatever, he would have to be smart (or cunning, or whatever) enough to create a secondary personality and live in it. So what we see of "Han Solo" would only be what he wants us to see--his real self could be entirely different.

I'm looking forward to seeing your books out. Hopefully, when you're done with them, you'll have a little more time to work on SANCTUARY! (wistful tone)

About the new TREK series: (well, you did ask!) I rather like it. Even if they don't have any plots worth mentioning. Even if I do want Wesley to die soon and painfully. I still think it has a lot of potential.

Vonnie Fleming: I'm sorry to hear you won't be writing back, because I was very interested in your response to Anonymous' anonymity. It seems to me that being anonymous is the same as using a pen-name. In either case, one is withholding one's identity, no matter what the reason. Someone who calls him or herself "Anonymous" is simply admitting to that fact.

Lisa Thomas: I saw AMAZON WOMEN when it came out, and loved it. Carrie Fisher's bit comes way at the end, and is truly hysterical. Actually, it isn't a movie I'd recommend to people who don't like "locker-room humor," because there's enough of that to be fairly offensive.

Barbara Gardner: Hi. If you liked THE LORD OF THE RINGS, you might want to try the FIONAVAR TAPESTRY by Guy Gavriel Kay. It's a trilogy worth reading, even if it is impossible to find copies of. And you're going to want a break from Kurtz at some point during the "Kelson" books. Trust me.

Catherine Churko: The problem Luke is going to have to face when he starts training other Jedi is that he doesn't know very much about Jedi-ness. He wasn't really taught about much except fighting, but I tend to think that there was also a less violent side to the Jedi. I agree with you about falls to the Darkside being rather rare. Perhaps that's why DV was able to kill off so many--they had no idea how to fight him. The same goes for Palpatine. He has a lot of power (even Yoda won't face him!), but apparently he never got any Jedi training. Where does his power come from? Did he sell his soul for limitless power or something? It does seem, from the example of these two, that pure Dark is stronger than pure Light.

Tim Blaes: The Hellguard Social Register?!? By the time this is printed, I'll already have written to you for more information. About sub-fandoms: I

have no clue. Perhaps people feel that they are too busy with "mainstream" fandoms to provide the sort of mass dedication needed in order to really get one off the ground?

I have a question, which I hope someone can answer for me. I have a copy of GUARDIAN 4, and in it are a lot of poems by Jani Hicks, subtitled "Tales of the Contraverse: From the Journals of Sharna Kenobi Skywalker." What is this "Contraverse"? It sounds fascinating! How can I find out more about it? Along similar lines, thank you very much for your list of favorite authors, Carolyn Golledge! Now, if only I could afford to buy all the zines you mentioned...

This is starting to get just a little bit longer than I thought it would, so perhaps I had better finish it off. Thank you all for existing!

(Gee, is this a little too ebullient?)

Feminine Ideal?

Chris Callahan
6101 Seminole Street
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

January 28, 1988

Ellen Randolph's article in SE#17 is fascinating reading, and I found myself agreeing on just about every point. But I think there's a bit more to some of the fannish dislike of Leia than Ellen proposes. I suspect that Leia is a threat to some fans because of her independence and lack of subservience to the "feminine" ideal which says that women are supposed to be sweet, quiet, gentle, deferential to men, and get their way by manipulation rather than direct action. Leia takes charge, and takes no nonsense from men--and gets away with it! When A NEW HOPE came out in 1977, that was something new on screen, and hard for a lot of people to deal with (there were more than a few locs in zines in the next year or so referring to her as a bitch or words to that effect). Since then, while feminism and new ideas about women have taken hold, there's still a strong undercurrent of feeling that women should be "feminine" in the old-fashioned sense no matter what they do for a living, and women who don't fit that ideal are threatening to both women who do try to fit, and to men who can't deal with women who consider themselves men's equals. I suspect that at least some of the dislike stems from insecurity--here's a woman who doesn't conform to the feminine ideals that so many of us grew up with (and that many of us did manage to reject) yet she has the admiration and respect of the men she deals with, including a couple of men who are the idols of one hell of a lot of women of various ages. If she can get away with being independent, assertive, and totally competent and still have a couple of hunks falling at her feet, where does that leave the women who try to be properly feminine according to the way they've been taught all these years? Personally, one of the aspects of ANH I liked best was Leia--FINALLY, a major female character who was strong, independent, and accepted for what she was, with no apologies.

OK, all that aside, I have a question: where

did the "Cosmic Chessmaster" business come from? Granted, I have a pile of zines from the last couple of years that I haven't had time to read yet, but this is the first I've seen of the idea. Or is it something that's going around in conversations and discussions at cons? It's intriguing, whatever the origin.

TWO new loccers in one issue--so much for the death of SW fandom!

Maggie Nowakowska's suggestion as to how Lando and Han ended up as generals in ROTJ is interesting and makes sense. After all, the Saga borrows from just about every culture on Earth, it seems--why not Amerind?

I agree with Matthew Whitney about ILM: THE ART OF SPECIAL EFFECTS. The photos are truly gorgeous and combined with the artwork make it a worthwhile acquisition for anybody interested in the subject. The explanations of a lot of the techniques are clear and intelligible, but more on the day-to-day applications would have been a real plus. Not that I object to the bios of the artists and technicians, I just wish more about the actual work they did had been included. And the writing style could have used a slightly heavier hand with the editorial pencil. It's a stunning book, flaws and all, and worth the price.

The SWzine Lending Library is CLOSING?! I can imagine a LOT of unhappy would-be readers around the country, including a couple I told about the Library--hope they got their request in before the end of December!

Uh, where did the SW convention column by Marc Mancini appear originally? There are a few points in it I'd love to take up with him, but it seems a waste of time and space to bother doing it in SE, since he most likely wouldn't know SE if it bit him, and your readers don't need to be subjected to my soapbox again. He makes me glad I didn't get to the con--I'd hate to be lumped in with the image he presents of SW fandom. Shudder!

((Ed: I can't remember where the article originally appeared or even who sent it to me! So much for my brain wattage. Could someone help Chris out by supplying this information?))

Whose a Wimp!?

Tim Blaes
Route 6, Box 294
Hendersonville, NC 28739

January 31, 1988

Damn! I did it again. I thought the deadline for the next issue was the end of February. Well, that's my fault, but could you place the deadline at the end of the month instead of the start? It would help me remember it better, and I bet I wouldn't be the only one. Anyway, this will go in the mail on the day of the deadline, but it won't get to you before then. I hope that will be good enough. ((Ed: If it makes you feel any better, Tim--and all the rest of you--it usually takes me about two weeks past deadline to get everything typed up, so if your LoC doesn't come in on the day of the deadline, I don't just throw it in the

trash. However, this is not an open invitation to wait until two weeks after deadline to send something in. I'll only include something in that issue if I'm still typing and I do reach an arbitrary cut-off point, after which your late LoC is liable to go into the next issue. That's happened more than once in the past.)) I suppose I should start in on my LoC.

Ellen Randolph's article was very interesting, but I agree with her when she doubts the existence of the Cosmic Chessmaster. Just where did this idea of a Great Manipulator start? Is this just some misinterpretation of something Lucas has said? Regarding your comments about Luke, the Marvel Comics adaptation of EMPIRE contained several scenes filmed or altered from the final cut. One read like this: "On Dagobah, it is night...and Luke Skywalker bolts from a troubled sleep! 'Master! It's come again! The vision of my friends! I can't ignore it, Yoda. If I don't help, they're going to die! I feel it! I've got to go!'" Shooting down the Death STar was a matter of survival rather than ruthlessness. It was a fight or die situation. And while Yoda and Ben did not flat out say, "Kill Vader," the latter seemed clear enough what he wanted to do.

Leia a compulsive shopper? Interesting idea, but if her wardrobe was filled with anything other than standard rebel issue and a white dress or two, then we never saw her in any of them. It is nice to know I'm not the only one who feels most of Leia's potential is untapped. But Lucas doesn't want to explore his characters the way we (or even the bulk of the non-fannish audience) would like to. He gives us a "Reader's Digest" condensed version of characterization and motivation. Do you really think Leia is merciless, pitiless, or remorseless? That doesn't sound like a likeable character and I do like Leia.

George Lucas' speech and Q&A at the tenth anniversary SW convention has popped into more publications than I would have expected. They all seem to be edited so differently that they might not have been taken from the same event. STARLOG's did seem to be the best.

If Lucas ever does the third trilogy, then Luke will finally find a woman. As far as HOWARD THE DUCK goes, I regret that Lucas was only joking about seven more movies.

Marti Schuller: Don't be so shy. I'm not sure how someone can "fail" in a letterzine, anyway. I'm glad you are here.

The same goes for Debbie Kittle. When I get my copy of SE, I make marks and notations all over it, to speed up my letter writing. For some reason, over your letter, I have scribbled "DV:junk food", and for the life of me I know not why. Perhaps Darth Vader could have offered a "junk food defense" if he had been captured by the Rebel Alliance. I don't know why I wrote it.

Maggie Nowakowska: "The Way of the Adventurer". I like the sound of that. There is no hard evidence that Luke will be preoccupied with reviving the Jedi, but if he does, it couldn't be the same Jedi, even if there were a thousand Day-Glo spooks to tutor Jedi students. "The Way of the Warrior" sounds a bit inflexible, and they may have been part of what lead to their downfall. Luke Skywalker High; the School of the Adventurer. (*uhmff* snicker*giggle* Pardon me, but mutated images of the NINJA HIGH SCHOOL comic just flashed in my mind.)

Could you explain the "impenetrable Spock"

Urhausen mentioned?

Ming Wathne: In vitro clones might not look exactly like their genetic "parent", but the whole batch might come out the same. Still, I don't believe you can clone a soul.

Dr. Mary Urhausen: The Press can be a pain sometimes, but just how do you describe a fan to non-fans? (A friend of mine and I plan to write to NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and ask them to do an article on SF fans/conventions. He has connections, so it just might happen.) Sometimes we kid ourselves by thinking we are better than the mundanes, and in someways, we are. But on the whole, we have as many bozos as they do, and we bleed the same blood. I remember one night in the con suite at MediaWest, we talked for hours about the things mundanes (including the Press) do that drives fans up the wall. Then we talked for a few more hours about the stupid things fans have done. Someday we will get it through the news media's heads that we are normal (far from average, but we are normal).

Cheree: About STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. Just what do you mean that Picard is a wimp! Just what kind of a man do you call a "wimp", anyway? And I wish people would understand that Starfleet is not like any military organization we know today. The Enterprise can be a warship only out of necessity and was made to do much more than any military ship would need to do. Any ship on a 10+ year mission is going to produce families anyway, so why not bring them along to begin with? Ryker is a bit bland, doing all the stuff Kirk used to do with only a fraction of his style, but I haven't given up on him yet. ((Ed: Good point about the families, Tim; I'll accept that, although I still don't like the kid. I will also admit that I like Picard better than I did at first. The "wimp" designation came from the fact that during the first shows, whenever they'd run into a problem, he would say, "Oh dear, we're in trouble, better surrender the ship." Kirk faced problems down with bravura. I miss that in Picard and in Ryker, too. The shows are getting better, but still need improvement in the excitement department.))

Matthew Whitney: I remember, around the time of EMPIRE, hearing how Carrie was not in the best of health and did not take good care of herself. Long before I knew she used drugs, I was afraid that she might be. All of this must have been on the back of my mind when I wrote a short story about Leia pushing herself too far by taking stimulants, until she wound down like a spent top and had to take time away from the Rebellion to recover. The final draft was lost at a MediaWest*Con, but I'll rewrite it someday.

Should the intention of an author override the perceptions of the audience? If Roddenberry never intended for Kirk and Spock to be perceived as lovers, does this make those who do "wrong?" Nicholas Meyer was once asked about the political slant of one of his book/movies. He replied to the effect that what the audience thought about the film, politically or otherwise, was more important than whatever he attempted to present. Zines are almost pure audience response, and a portion of that audience perceived K/S, or some other "/" fiction. It is a matter of "a point of view" rather than a "right" perception or a "wrong" perception. I reject most "/" fiction for the same reasons you do, but the only people I'm liable to bump heads with are the K/S ladies who think their perceptions are the only right ones.

Barbara Gardner: I understand how you feel

exactly, about publishing a letterzine. I did the second issue of HSR on a friend's computer, and I couldn't know just how many pages it would be until I finished it. I then found out that my page count tripled and so did the cost of photocopying! Fortunately for me, I have a friend who offered to run off copies on her office copier (the woman is a saint) but now the postage has leaped from 22¢ to 73¢ and I won't let her eat that expense. Did I mention that I am well over eight months late?

Catherine Churko: My imagination is not always consistent when I read a story. Sometimes I'll build an elaborate "set" only to have it fade in and out if dialogue or events don't mesh with it enough, leaving characters to act on a nearly blank "stage". On the other hand, some scenes in a book do lend themselves to "filming", and I find myself picking "camera angles" and other such climactic imagery. Have you ever found yourself deciding what sort of SFX to use if the book were made into a movie? But I suppose most of you are not that interested in technical things like that.

I almost never read a zine cover to cover. In fact, I have a few zines from MediaWest*Con II that I haven't touched yet; it was the first time I had ever been in a room with so many zines and I went a bit wild, buying some zines that I would later wonder what I bought them for. And the zine room was half as full as it is now.

I have given an incomplete impression about the two girls who were to put out VERTIGO. Their problem was less that they were out to rip anyone off, but rather that they didn't know what they were doing. I think they looked at some of the zines and thought "how hard could this be?" They hadn't been in fandom long enough to really understand how it worked. And you must understand that a lot of my grief I brought on myself because I couldn't see the writing on the wall. One set of their parents didn't help either. They were the two-faced type of mundane that will be all friendly to you in person, then say things behind your back. Such as I didn't have a girlfriend, so I must be a "fag". They sabotaged communications between the girls and me. I held a lot of pent-up anger that I needed to let out in issue #16, but the whole mess was just too complicated for me to explain fairly.

Say "Good night", Chewie.
From the Outer Limits of the Twilight Zone...

Natural Disasters

Barbara Gardner
617 Virginia Road
St. Mary's, PA 15857

January 29, 1988

I'm certainly cutting it close this time!

Marti Schuller: Welcome to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE! No, I've never read the DRAGONLANCE books, but the next time I get to a book store, I'll be sure to look for them. And, if you care to know just how much of a Vader fan I am, talk to Veronica Wilson about me. She and I must have been made from the same mold! (Do you get the feeling that although

you don't know me, I do know you? Loved your story "Acceptance". I liked the way Vader insisted that Luke stop dividing him into two people and accept him as everything that he was both as Anakin and as Vader. I'm hoping that Veronica will also feel inclined to pass along "Descending Darkness" and "Secret of the Sith" to me. Do you think the two of us could convince her to start writing to SE? Another devoted Vader fan (and fellow Sithlady) would be most welcome!).

Cheree: THANK YOU! for relating what you were told by Terry Erdman at StarCon. Hope, again! (I was one of the ones whose hopes were on WILLOW, only to be rudely awakened by the first issue of the Lucasfilm Fan Club's new magazine--which had an article on WILLOW that could've disspeled the strongest of rumors!

Debbie Kittle: Han-lusters outnumbered??! I've always gotten the impression that Luke was at the light end of the scale (pardon the pun)! (Of course, Vader really needs more support in the lust department, but I'm sure he'll get his fair share after the first movie comes out.)

Melanie Gutierrez: Welcome to you, as well! (I see your name popping up all over the place these days, and not just in HIBERNATION SICKNESS. You really are catching up, aren't you?) Regarding the SW Fan Alliance, what's been going on? I haven't heard a peep from SWFA since last May! What happened to the newsletter? Leather and heavy breathing fetish? Is that all? I've expanded, Melanie! Now there's the armor fetish, the deep voice fetish, the cybernetic fetish (an obsession with half-men, as Lisa Thomas so crudely puts it), and so on... Have you bought all those zines I sent you ads for? I certainly cleaned out my ads file on you!

Ming Wathne: "This HIBERNATION SICKNESS thing" is an attempt to keep SW fandom alive when so many zines and newsletters are no longer publishing. So far, we've been somewhat successful and are coming up on our first anniversary! As for those earthshakers--sorry, Ming, but this Sithlady doesn't deal in natural disasters. I only work with heat waves and blizzards--ask Lisa Thomas, she's often my target. Lisa is the underhanded Jedi responsible for the tornados that struck here last summer--the largest of which hit my neighborhood--so maybe you should see her about your earthquake problems... (The funny thing is that you aren't the first Californian to accuse me of sending those earthquakes! What is it with Sith reputations these days?? Do you think I walk around followed by whipping winds and cracks of thunder, too? Force! Even Vader was never into meteorology!

Melanie Rawn: Other than loving the design of the new Enterprise (what can you expect from a future aerospace engineer? I check out the ships first!), I'm not thrilled. There's not as much character development as there could/should be. I do not like children on the Enterprise (nothing personal against Wesley, I just don't like the idea). Picard, I agree, seems wimpy, I miss Spock. I miss McCoy (Crusher is a poor substitute for McCoy's humor), and I loathe Data (though I haven't yet figured out why). On the positive side, I do like Ryker, Worf (ha! a Klingon!), Geordi, Tasha and Troi.

Vonnie Fleming: Sorry to hear you're dropping out for a while--hope you can come back soon, and good luck with your move, job, etc.! The Dark Side be with you!

Matthew Whitney: I don't consider myself to be

bigoted or close-minded, either, and I agree with your opinions on "/" stories involving apparently "straight" characters such as Luke, Han, Kirk, and Spock.

Lisa Thomas: Well, I got my friends (the stormtroopers) back with my last LoC. Even you got a TIE fighter. But I won't give up the fight until I get Vader! ((Ed: The luck of the draw, Barb. It all depends on how your LoC fits into the final printout and how much space (if any) there is for art.))

Cheree again: Thanks bundles for the "V" tapes. I finally got to watch them all the way through recently (our VCR is not being amiable) and imagine my surprise when I discovered the first four TV episodes after "Hardware Wars"! Thanks!

The Dark Side is in us all!

Fannish Concepts

Catherine Churko
590 Ft. Washington Ave.
New York, NY 10033 #1M

January 27, 1988

Happy New Year, all. May it bring you health, happiness and creativity of mind and spirit.

Let's jump in. I want you to know the FAITHFUL Guardian of my beloved Art Studio had a tear or something in its sensors when I told it it had made the venerable SW plates. What kind of studio guardian do I have? Why, an ATAT, of course! No, I'm not an Imp. This ATAT was three-legged (among other cruel mutilations) and abandoned by its cruel childmaster, whence I found it in the big garbage corner on the way to and from the laundry room. And rescued it, of course.

I didn't allude to the less-than-glowing comments made by various rebels on its inclusion in the Pantheon. Besides, haven't you heard? The Glimmer Boys (Ben & 'Kin) are turning "swords into plowshares." They told me they're going into 'biz: "All Terrain Anytime Taxis...of course! For those planets where it's hard to get around on.

Marti: Since you asked and since the LoC to the particular zine hasn't been written yet (I can just about manage SE communiques) and it's a last run zine, I'll do it here. "Secret of the Sith" in FAR REALMS #9 was a fine story. Good interpretation on the idea some authors have extrapolated on; a Sith planet or system. Effective emotional shadings/reactions within and between the characters. Neat descriptions of the planet and the buildings; I could feel the tunnels. And that room! I could see that room. Good scary encounters. If I can really see the action, whether emotional or physical action, and have it set in a sense of place and I get the urge to scribble down a sketch or two, then for me the author has done their job. These days, as I mentioned in my last letter, this ability manifests better when not only are the ideas good but are written well. Sometimes the whole story is meshed well and well-written; sometimes it's only parts (for me, IDIC). Yours held up quite nicely. And Rebecca Carey did a great job on the illo; only wish she had done more for it.

Anyway I just find it difficult while still

working so hard on my artwork to find the time to LoC the way I want to. (Long & windy! It's the holes in my head.) While I make up my own things in my mind and illo them before I write anything, I LOVE reading all the various things authors have written. Kudos to the authors who keep us artists busy with other visions.

Lin: Hi, ya! Glad we could meet at the Alliance Breakfast (at MWC 007).

Oh, yes, that Lethe moved in real swiftly. Not a nice dude at all. DRAGON'S TEETH was real neat especially those last eight paragraphs on the very last page. (Shiver!) Have you caught her [Carol Hines-Stroede] other stories in the zines that make her Universe? Good stuff.

Everyone: A tad more update on the state of SW celluloid. Terry Erdman was at our Creation SW Con (January 2/3) and said the SW#1 script was finished! (At least that's how I heard it; Rebecca C, can you second that?) AND, although there are NO scripts yet, SW #2 and #3 have been written as stories. (As much as I'm chomping at the bit to see Ben & 'Kin's tragedy, Yoda's involvement (or non), L&L's mother, who, what was her bright (?) then shadowed life, the Organas, Alderaan, the rise of the Emperor, Mon Mothma's subterfuges, the Imperial palace, the Jedi's betrayal, the kid's escape, the clones, etc.. etc.--I won't feel placated till I know #7-9 have at least been written on paper solidly.

(Sick phrase of the ish...ran into several fellow zine people at NY SW con which was about the nicest thing about the con... Thank goodness they didn't dare change more than they did. And I won't implicate the fellow author of the quote: "Remember when you're feeling blue, real blue, or ill, you can't die until after seeing #9." See, probably an automatic 20 years right there!)

Debbie: Welcome to SE LoCing. I don't think I've seen your story but I have seen at least one of the LoCs in the zines. Yes, I do empathize with you getting the courage up to send your story in. I went through it with my sample SW illos to editors to see if they'd be interested, since I'm new to SWzinedom (not to the movies). Glad you've joined the happy mob.

I'm always fascinated with all the possibilities everyone comes up with. I'm so busy thinking about art aspects or other aspects of the Saga I miss a lot. In fact, since I don't have access to a VCR, I've relied on the occasional cable broadcast and when they did it moviehouse re-issue. I spent so much time scrutinizing the faces, figures in action plus the backgrounds to better my illos that I've only just begun to see some of the things that my fellow fan have been bandying about for years. Not to mention that as a neo, I've only been recently exposed to all the different points of view (as opposed to just my own) for the past bunch of years. (Well, with a few discussions, which pale before zinefen, with my friends...)

I had to laugh about your Han comments. Almost all my non-zine SW fan friends have been hankering for Han for years. Almost no one I knew even lifted an eyebrow at Luke when he coasted through his Jedi blacks (my pulse, my hormones, on the other hand...). It wasn't till SE I even knew anyone else lusted after Luke.

Melanie G.: Hi, fellow "neo"! A fellow artist to boot (yea, nice illo you did). See paragraphs 2 up, and another Luke luster. (I presume?) See above paragraph. Wow, your SW story is definitely a unique one! ROJ cold! I'd been in SF/SW/ST for years and years but not hooked up in fandom. I had

a few friends who were especially into SF for years but only a very few who had any interest in SW and my interest both in SF and SW seemed to be the strongest of all my friends' interest.

I only discovered zinedom a little over a year ago while I, like yourself, made up my own stories pre- and post-4 through 6. I, at least, had my friends look at and comment on my illo/stories, vignettes.

I very much feel the bittersweet feeling you've felt on finally finding something that now appears (I said "appears"...Mary & Samia & Sandi J) to be slowing down to a slow walk. It's a literate society as opposed to an oral-tradition society. I feel great satisfaction sitting down with a zine and reading stories and seeing illos. (Don't get me wrong; I spend many joyful and silly an hour listening to people tell a good story, whether from their real life or from their minds...precious and cherished time.)

Therefore we need people who are willing to do the very hard work of editing and publishing. And, unfortunately for us (readers, writers, illoers), other obligations, interests or burn-out take their toll. Thanks to Mary & Samia for continuing, good luck Bev L., who is regaining her strength, thanks to Cheree for continuing (SE is especially special because, as who said it?, it IS like a con on paper, even with its lag time.). I can't afford a hefty phone bill and it's hard to keep up with the letter writing I do (I write long but I type r-e-a-l slow...frustrating!) and I like writing as well as getting letters. So SE is a fabulous vehicle for us all. Kudos to Sandi J. for doing her first BIG zine. Thanks to Mary Jean Holmes and the other zine eds who include SW in their zines. (If I left anyone out, I apologize...and thanks to all those eds who've butted heads together in the past.)

Speaking of Scrumptious Skywalker, Melanie, save up your bucks for WOOKIEE COMMODE #5. Dr. Mary clued me in on the inside cover; you will definitely crave it. Actually, I fell in love with the concepts of the Force, the Jedi, the breadth and scope of the SW universe, and all the characters, whether to cheer, worry and wonder about the heroes and heroines, hiss and wonder about the villains, and examine the shades in between all the actions and thoughts. It wasn't until the second go around with ESB when I got into the philosophical/meta-physical struggle Luke was going through on Dagobah and his training that I really looked at him closer. THEN, when he sauntered out in those Jedi blacks in ROTJ...gak...hold my breath...whoa... I've always liked (fashion-wise) either solid colors or solid prints that go the length of the figure. Or similar colors. I think it lengthens and streamlines the figure. I'd like to see Luke in his "farmboy whites" as he looks now, too. Scrumptious, too, I'd bet.

Maggie: Owe you but this might beat me to the punch. Been super busy. A few quick notes. I think your point with Lin is a good one. In the final countdown, the person involved must make their own flight. In the student/teacher mode, though, some might take longer than others to get to the push-off point.

Fascinating "Way of the Adventurer... (I know I'd lean more in that direction.) Also fascinating, your "space-centered" nature religion theory. I don't think I've grasped the whole thing yet, but the Republic, as extension of the kind of understanding of non-doctrinal religions have amongst themselves about many paths to god/universe, etc.

vs. the Empire, is one I'm going to go over more carefully...good stuff.

Neon sign? I said metal sign! I dunno know, Maggie; just what kind of business were you thinking of? Looks like one of the East Side's smallish interesting residential buildings, architectural-wise. Could be anything. ((Ed: Dallas has an "Enclave" that is a super-exclusive restaurant/club. Too hotsy-totsy for me, tho. My budget runs towards McDonald's!))

Ming: Hi, NNN (nearly-new neo). Ok! Grouse, grouse, moan, moan. See my reply to Melanie G. about coming in late. As I said there, we need editors to help "bind us together"...artists, writers, readers. And letterzines to keep the phone-bills down and bring more people together.

I find it's fun to play catch-up but frustrating too, 'cause there's lots out there not always easy to get. Or to decide with meager resources what to choose from. Playing catch-up...another difficult aspect is you don't get the flow and ebb "naturally." You kind of cram it down in a more haphazard way. You can get a zine and read a sequel and not know it at first until you find another reference somewhere and then go find the stories before. They are, of course, marvelous to read but you've missed the natural progression. So I've missed the natural progression of stories, questions, answers, rumors, zine people themselves, taking place over the years. But it still is fun, very gratifying and special to have found my way to this "place." I see you have made good use of the library.

Melanie: Just saying "hi" and hope your nerves settled down quickly after mother earth's "joyride". You painted a vivid description.

Tim: Thanks for letting me know about that New Generation episode by Diane Duane. That was a great episode. (Maybe next letter I'll blurb a bit on ST:NG (no pun intended).

Chris: Hi, thank you for your welcome and kind words on how I was thinking about my stories vs. other ideas. I can see better now, what you were telling me and feel better about my stuff.

I've been reading SFC and LOCUS for years and I've always wondered how the bidding goes. I will have to drop you a SASE on Discon III. I don't think I'm even going to get to New Orleans this year.

Melanie G.: There is going to be the World SF Con in New Orleans on Labor Day weekend.

Vonnie: Have enjoyed your letters. Good luck in new home and job. Come back to the cantina when you can.

Barbara G.: It was neat to see your HIBERNATION SICKNESS mentioned in STARLOG. Yes, I see you and Lisa are learning about the "unglamorous side" of publishing and the vanishing \$\$\$ syndrome.

Matthew: I'd say your comment on "/" and easy fantasizing by the authors makes sense but I'd like to add some other possibilities. Men can have a very intense bond, with physical aspects, without being sexual in nature, sure. But let's face it; sexual expressions is one of the strongest expressions within the range of physical expression. (Of course, the range of sexual expression goes from quiet and tender to intense passion.) We have been exposed by television to much "male imagery" in terms of bar brawls, gun-slinging, deaths in war, etc. They aren't doing very nice things to each other, are they? Even in football or those terrible fights they seem to be experiencing in hockey these days. (I prefer baseball as organized sport to the others.) I wonder if "/" is sort of the

psychic yearning of the other side of the coin... images of men in physical contact of love and/or passion, erotic delight, creative of good feelings (hopefully), not bad ones. Also, it may be a projection if "they" can learn to be more accepting of themselves, "they" can become more accepting of or tender towards "us" (women). (Look at all the wife-or girlfriend-battering that goes on. Yes, I know some women do it to their man but it's much rarer.)

I also think it's an out-growth of the women's movement in terms of women exploring all kinds of erotic enjoyment that we'd never thought of or CERTAINLY never brought out into the light of day. Some men enjoy looking at pictures or reading of two women making love, so why not vice versa? And I'm sure there are lots of women who might or might not admit they enjoy "/", as well as looking or reading graphic (well-written, please) tales of men and women together. I remember reading a comment from a psychologist to the effect that we are inundated everyday with pictures or descriptions of almost every kind of human activity, but hardly any visual/descriptive acknowledgment, celebration of one of the most vulnerable, intense experiences in our lives. Instead, it's relegated to the back rooms, "smutty" bookracks; and, as Jung's theory would suggest, since organized Judeo/Christianity is mostly on the strict puritanical side in its allowance of sex/erotica and squashes it down, then it's bound to come back to us in strange ways. I don't think "/" is strange.

I'd say "/" would turn some people's hair white because it (gay sex) explores/implies that aspect of sex for pleasure's sake (of course, in there, there are other aspects of care, commitment and, Tim, I've read many a reversal of the examples you mentioned last ish). And for the orthodox religious views tied up strictly with marriage/sex/procreation, "/" would be an abomination. (Don't get the idea I don't think marriage and children aren't a "sacred" state, but children, when they are really wanted for themselves, not so much for hidden reasons, status, social or religious "duty". And I think the single or childless states consciously and freely chosen as possible by these persons is a "sacred" state, too. Sometimes it's just hard to untangle your messages from someone else's.)

As for humor and sex, hey--that's one reason I'm romping along illogically with that laughing laureate Literati of lasciviousness, K.R., not to mention this den of depravity.

Carolyn G.: Hi and thank you! I hope you're feeling good again. Yes, do keep developing your Endor and fire hazards idea! Logical, practical and interesting. Otherwise keep "seeing" yourself happily walking through the sliding doors at the Hilton (they were sliding electronic doors, weren't they?), putting your bags down, and some fellow SW-zine fan happen to be strolling by and they go, "Ah, you ol' Corellian, you made it back again!" (Round of cheers.) I might be able to borrow the \$ as a last resort, but it's a lot less than your haul...so keep up the hoping. I'm working on my hopes, too. As they say, "once is not enough."

Mary: Hi! Did you, Samia and the Wookiee survive another WC birth?

Mary and Everyone: Now, about that article. *sigh* I'm going to try and wing a sober but more hopeful reply. I've been turning it over for weeks mentally. In any kind of fandom there is the danger of losing your "identity" totally. Actually, anything you can pursue single-mindedly means you can "lose" the rest of you. In many cases (not all),

it would depend on the social context of the pursuing involvement, whether this would be considered really weird.

Look, for example, at all the men who live for sports and practically nothing but. The jokes in society are made at the expense of the wives or girlfriends, not the man who sits for weekends in front of the TV. Obviously, he is getting something on some levels he isn't getting from the rest of the society's structure. Interesting that he picked up on the "small, pale, awkward" society type of the men vs. society's generally more acceptable type of macho soldier, super-athlete, business or corporate mogul...there must be a few others, knocking down everything in the path of the "bottom line". Interesting; does that kind of dreamer (usually we associate that physical type with nerdy scientists or engineers) become socially awkward because they are too busy dreaming or because they start dreaming at an early age and those kinds of dreams--they are maybe considered "different" and develop social impediments? Could their dreaming be a little more guided to be more open to other subjects? And what about that other even "more" crazy set of dreamers--artists, writers, dancers, photographers, musicians? The myth interpreters, heralders, and shapers are somewhat frowned upon or "well, they're nice to visit but we wouldn't want to live with them" attitude about "creative types".

And he was so busy talking about the men, what would he have made of all us women at MediaWest, especially doing "adult" stories and wearing "funny" costumes? Would it have been the older prevailing view that women are silly, flighty creatures of insubstantial intellect? Anyway, that this event would have been totally beneath his time to take a look at it?

I think we can gain an interesting clue about his PoV from his rather noticeable discomfort with the costume aspect. Many newer psychologists have talked about the many sub-personas, "voices" we all carry around in us, how and which we present of these personas at different times and people. Then, put it together with the idea of myths. As Maggie pointed out in her review of the film on Campbell, myths aren't lies; they are metaphors. Very powerful metaphors. Some are personal and some are cultural and some are near universal...if you call our one beautiful and sacred planet, a whole universe.

Myths can illuminate the various clamorings of these personas, and the stages, passages of our lives and our inner personas. But Campbell also said in a NY TIMES Sunday magazine interview that we had to keep our metaphysical myths current. For instance, the Biblical world was not that big, from the world geology known and physically speaking. There was also the "vault of heaven" and eternal afterlife. But Campbell pointed out that our generations of the past 30 years (it may have been more or less) have been truly exposed to the VASTNESS of real physical space, as seen in our fly-bys that take years just to reach their destinations, and in the photographic and radio telescopic "pictures" that show us a whole universe, where whole galaxies look like stars sprinkled in our summer nights. This is a far cry from sailing around the Mediterranean Sea and the Nile in Biblical times. It's a far cry from even reaching the north or south poles (and that's still pretty mysterious to many people). So he felt SF and films like SW brought those personas into the vastness of space that is slowly seeping into our collective unconsciousness and eroding the frameworks of our old myths.

The director of CHARIOTS OF FIRE stated something like...being in a movie theatre can be a very vulnerable experience. There we are sitting in a theater with our whole attention focused on figures and scenes that are larger than life. Very powerful. Imprinting. No wonder we SWzines people are so affected. Many of us already ached for the mystery, the vastness, the possibilities of space itself and the metaphor of space, and then George imprinted larger than life myth personas into that vast space. Hell, they can at least hyperspace through their galaxy...we haven't even set human feet on Mars!

What does the author think are real myths as opposed to these pseudo-myths these "nerdy" types were dreaming up and playing in? Did he associate pseudo-myths and costumes with "primitive" peoples? And are we in western technological society oh-so-far-above them?

Primitive peoples think our western concepts of time and one reality are uninformed or "blind". Their concepts involve things like multiple realities and levels, cyclical or non-time concepts.

I can't remember the quote exactly and who said it, but it was along the lines of "a mystic (perhaps we can read shaman in there) knows there are many levels to reality and moves in them according to need, while someone in trouble either doesn't know this or gets stuck in one reality only. These cultures think western super techno-society is very stuck and unbalanced in the perception of the whole."

There have been/are new gatherings together in scientific circles of advanced theoretical physics scientists, brain scientists, mathematical scientists who are talking about the Universe, the nature of reality, brain, mind and consciousness. They are beginning to weave theories together such as solid matter on the atomic level "disappearing" into energy patterns and dances, possibilities and tendencies vs. solid, pin-it-down-in-one-place. There are tantalizing theories and mathematic constructs for the mind and universe in its "underlying" level as holographic, all parts of the universe contained in each party (a hologram contains all of its images in each part) and that consciousness is the underlying level that takes all these unimaginable infinity of levels, vibrations, relationships, information and creates our "reality" out of it. It creates the brain which then interprets the "world" of space/time and all the physical stuff in it. They (scientists) shake their heads saying they really don't understand it, they know they have begun to sound like a bunch of mystics. Many have studied or looked at the ancient texts for passages that poetically described all that they are now exploring. And they also know it's "scary" stuff because it so thoroughly overturns everything that we have considered solid reality and common sense of time and space. (The holographic model also allows for what people consider psi phenomenon.)

Let's bring it back home! I'd suggest that the danger in what we are doing is to get stuck in that SW reality as the only reality (as other SWzine people have warned us). On some level/dimension these personas are perhaps real--real "mindstuff." But, as the shaman who comes back from the other levels of reality and shares or does what they need to do with this knowledge, we have to bring "it" back.

So the positive creative side is to play, costume, create, work with this "mythology" in a collective or personal interpretation of that SW

universe and its people and archetypes, and take what you've learned on whatever level about yourself and that world and bring it back to this physical reality of time and space. On some level, every story, illo, song, etc. tells us something about who we are/have been/like to be/not like to be, or some part of ourselves is illuminated in the same way along with how we in turn view the world.

SW gave me back my bliss and illustrations. Six years ago I despaired and thought I'd never do it again. Well, I've got no complaints and I try and keep my eyes open and know just where I'm walking, and choose where I'm walking consciously.

I hope this isn't too confusing, too upsetting but mostly I hope that it sheds some hope and joy on this playground we've chosen to play in. Infinite play and creativity to all!

One final note: Fellow artists, I don't see too many of you in here but bravo, too. Your work and creativity have delighted, inspired and influenced me beyond words. Thanks.

"Never Tell Me The Odds"

Carolyn Golledge
6 Burrawang St.
Ettalong 2257
N.S.W. Australia

January 31, 1988

Yes, I know the deadline is tomorrow! I feel like I've been dead for some time! Wanted to let everyone know that I will be hard-pressed to answer letters but (selfishly) I ask that you keep writing. Your letters are the only real bright spot in the universe just now. (Prepare for Corellian complaining.) I have to go into hospital every month for 2-3 days for transfusions (gamma globulin) and suffer a reaction afterwards for up to 2 weeks. You guessed, that leaves me with 2 weeks at most per month for resurrection.

I refuse to entirely abandon hopes for coming to MediaWest 88. Whilst thinking on Han's famous "never tell me the odds"; it occurred to me once again how much he and Yoda have in common philosophically. (Finished your choking, laughing & scoffing? At least I got your attention!)

Think about it!

Example (1): "Never tell me the odds." Why? Because the odds can change completely from one minute to the next, therefore altering the path of expected events. Yoda: "Always in motion is the future."

(2): Han's "Let's keep a little optimism here" sounds a lot like Yoda's "There is no try."

I could give more examples, but I feel crook (that's Aussie for "lousy"). Besides, you can amuse yourself thinking up your own! (101 things to do on a sick bed! Tut! Tut! Vonnig, I heard that!)

I enjoyed the last issue of SE very much. Wanted to comment but--am suffering short circuits. Thanks again for a great job, Cheree. I certainly hope and pray that your own health is improving and somebody does something about that place you work for! ((Ed: So, can I help it if I don't have the smarts of a wombat and still haven't quit this place?? My own fault!))

By the way, thought you'd all like to know, Two One Bee and I are engaged--literally! He's so sweet, holds my hand all night long and sings me lullabies. (Figure that one!)

Oh, and just for the record, I do not think Han has the Force (Jedi-wise) in any way, shape or form. Some readers seem to be drawing the opposite conclusion from my stories (e.g., Han's ability to "see" in "Journey to Darkness"). NOT the Force (Jedi-type religion) but simple psychic skills which some Earthlings possess and am sure many variations (non-Jedi-based) abound in the universe.

Know it probably doesn't fit here, but have to say: HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, AUSTRALIA! (That's about how old I feel right now!)

((Ed: Happy Bicentennial, mate! And you stick to that bed and get well! Don't worry about LoCs or stories or letters. Just drop us a postcard now and then and let us know your progress! You've got a LOT of people using the Force for you, so tap into that strength and soak it up! We love you a lot and want you around for a LOOOONG time!!))



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LAST MINUTE UPDATE

After I had finished typing up this issue of SE, a big change occurred in my life that I thought you'd all like to know about--I finally quit my nutty job. My last day is March 15 and I am alternately elated and terrified. It took an extraordinary act of courage to just resign, but I feel I made the right decision and, though I'm scared to death, I feel that the future is wide open now. I will be working as a temporary and starting up my own free lance business. What this means to SE is that I will do my best to have things go on as before. I have no intentions of giving up the zines or the many friends I have made through them. I just won't have access to the bells and whistles I've gotten used to at work. But, who knows, by the time the next issue comes out, I may be at a wonderful full-time job that was just waiting for me out there. I'll keep you all posted!

OFF THE NEWSWIRES

HOLLYWOOD--It's a Ford! Before starting a third Indiana Jones adventure in late 1988, Harrison Ford will slip into a well-pressed business suit for some romantic comedy.

He goes before the cameras in February as a media consultant in an investment banking outfit who falls head over heels for a Wall Street office secretary--who is posing as her own boss--played by Melanie Griffith. They are in director Mike Nichols' "Working Girl", scripted by Kevin Wade.

"It's not broad, Chevy Chase material, but the kind of subtle, character comedy they used to make in the 30's and 40's," said a production insider, who called it "Cary Grant territory" for the actor.

-- Leonard Klady
for the LA Times

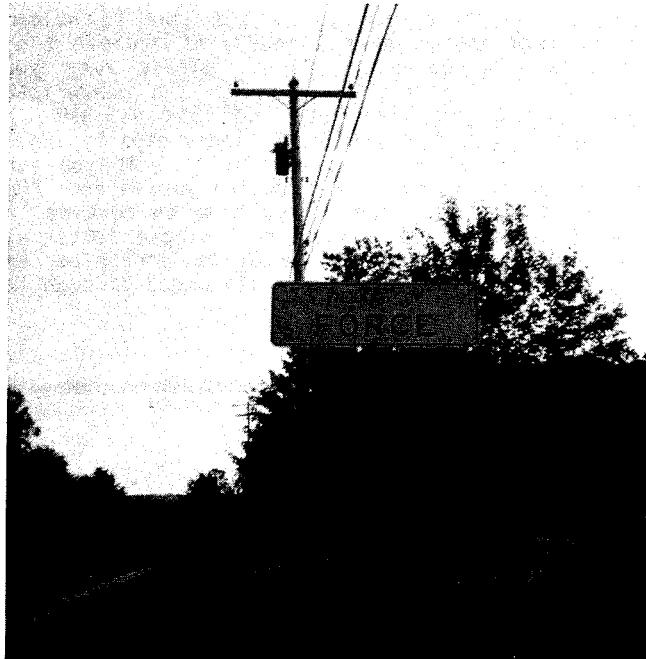
CONGRATULATIONS!!

David, Cynthia and Darryn Manship are proud to announce the birth of the newest member of their family:

Victoria ("Tori") Alexandria
born on October 29, 1987
at 9:52pm
weight 8 lbs. 3.6 oz.
length 20 inches

TIDBITS

Thanks to Barbara Gardner for the photo of the city limits sign of Force, PA. Lisa Thomas informs us that Charleston, SC has Jedi Street. Ye Olde Ed reports that Garland, TX, has Star Trek Lane, as well as Jupiter Road, Saturn Road, and North Star Road!



Ed's Desk

Well, contrary to the news that flashed through fandom in December, I did not have a stroke. There were no blacking out spells, no paralysis, or anything like that.

What did happen was that I had an episode with a complicated migraine that left my right side numb for a couple of days and had me in the hospital overnight for tests. The final medical diagnosis was "reversible ischemic neurological deficit." What that translates out to is that I'd been under a lot of stress at work and had been having mild migraine headaches for about a week. Nothing that Tylenol wouldn't fix.

So, it was a surprise when this happened on Thanksgiving afternoon. Fortunately, my parents were able to drive me home (Randy wasn't with me) and were able to stay with the baby. I had a CT scan, x-rays, a full lab workup and an MRI done, all of which turned out pretty much normal. The doctors decided that the migraine had caused the muscles in the back of my head to spasm and constrict the blood flow to the brain.

It all cleared up after a couple of days, although I experienced a period where I was even more absent-minded and scatter-brained than usual. I also had trouble with saying what I meant; it was as if I knew what I wanted to say but the right word just wouldn't come out. Very disturbing. I'm happy that that has cleared up, too.

I'm taking aspirin therapeutically and have a bottle Xanax if the stress starts creeping up on me again (I'm back to being a Zombie of the Xanaxphere) but fortunately I haven't had to use it more than a few times.

I want to thank all of you who sent cards or letters of support and concern. It's nice to know how much all of you care and that we are all brothers and sisters in the Force!

On to other topics... Since we have a number of newer contributors coming in, I'd like to welcome all of them and go over a couple of "rules" I ask our LoCers to observe. First, please keep your LoCs to 3-4 typewritten pages or 5-6 handwritten ones. I know you have lots and lots you want to talk about, but I really can't spend days typing up a single LoC. Also, it is most helpful if you send me a clean copy, not one on which you've done four "final" drafts but didn't have time to re-type. I recently spent a solid week on a single letter attempting to decypher the writer's scribbles and revisions. By the time I finally waded through it,

I was so aggravated I wished I had never started it! I came very close to throwing that one in the trash! Please, folks, remember that I do this in my spare time at work! I really must have something I can type up quickly and easily!

Next, digressions are allowed, such as into STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION or books you've read lately, but remember that SE is a STAR WARS letterzine and that is the main topic of conversation. Your LoCs should center on SW and/or SW fandom. If you want to address pages of philosophical discussion to a particular person, please do it in private correspondence. Likewise, if you're going to discuss politics and/or religion, make sure that it concerns a SW-related point or it will be cut from your LoC. We've had enough "letter wars" in these pages! I don't intend to stifle anyone's flow of conversation, but I have to place some limits in order to keep us all on track. Believe me, we've strayed pretty far at times in the past. Thanks!

Hearty congratulations to David and Cynthia Manship on the birth of their second daughter, Victoria Alexandria! Cindy informs me that she and David will have both Tori and big sister Darryn at MediaWest*Con this year. Be sure and look them up!

Our own little Princess is growing up so fast it's startling! She's now 10 months old and is working very diligently at the business of getting those little feet to go where she wants them to. She hasn't quite mastered it yet, but it won't be long before she's on the run. She gets around by holding onto the furniture or any convenient finger. She's a holy terror in her walker and the dogs live in abject fear when she's loose. She still doesn't have much hair (half the people who meet her think she's a little boy) but her lovely smile has just acquired tooth number six--four uppers and two lowers. We all hope we get a rest in the teething, though, since those four uppers all came in fast and furious and it's been hard on all three of us! But she's a darling, and here are some pictures to prove it!

I don't know if I'll make it to MediaWest this year, much though I'd like to. Finances are still tight and it's very difficult to find someone to keep Katy for that length of time. Sigh...the realities of Mundavia have a horrible way of creeping on the Real Life... So, if I don't see you there in person, I'll be there in spirit!

Till next time, clear skies!

Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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6 months

9 months



BIGGY

BY
JOHN HANNAH

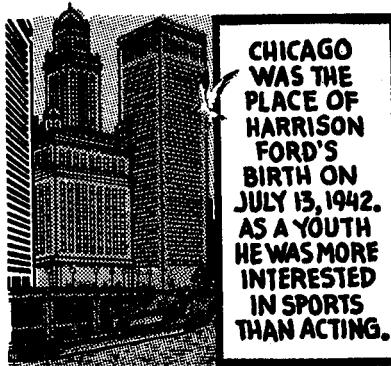
F * E * A * T * U * R * I * N * G

HARRISON FORD



**HARRISON
FORD...**

...MEANS
"MAGIC" TO THE
MILLIONS OF HIS FANS.
FROM HIGH-FLYING
ADVENTURER TO SERI-
OUS ACTOR, HARRISON
HAS STARRED IN SOME
OF THE BIGGEST BLOCKBUST-
ER FILMS OF ALL TIME!!

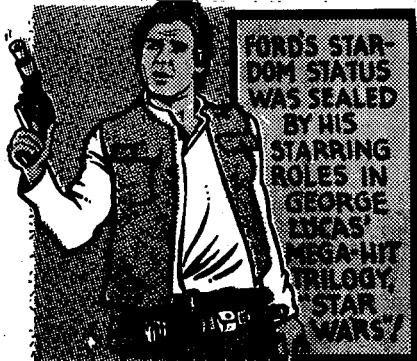
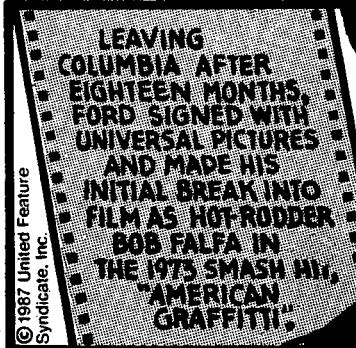


CHICAGO
WAS THE
PLACE OF
HARRISON
FORD'S
BIRTH ON
JULY 13, 1942.
AS A YOUTH
HE WAS MORE
INTERESTED
IN SPORTS
THAN ACTING.

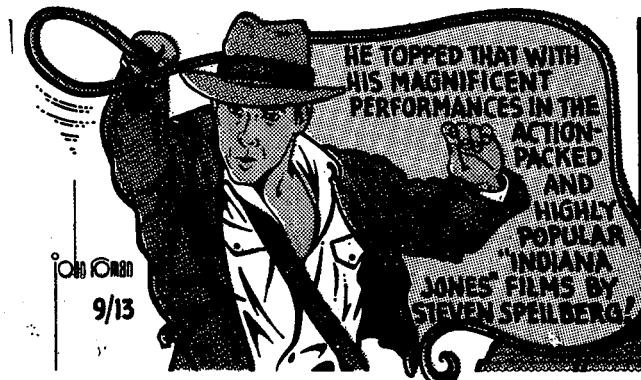


**HARRISON
FORD...**

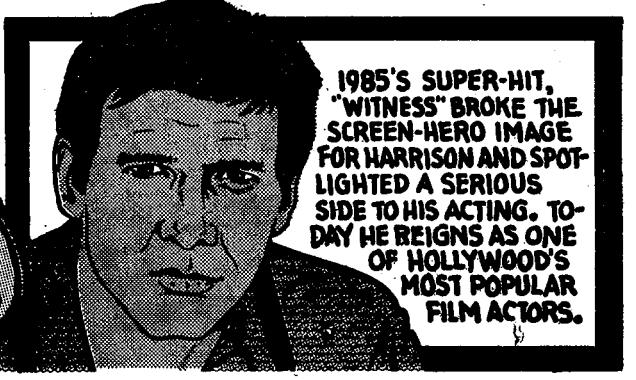
...OVERCAME
SEVERE SHYNESS AS A
YOUNG ADULT TO STUDY
DRAMA IN COLLEGE. HE
WAS LATER DISCOVERED
AT A CALIFORNIA PLAY-
HOUSE AND PICKED UP
BY COLUMBIA STUDIOS
FOR THEIR 'NEW-
TALENT' PROGRAM.



FORD'S STAR-
DOM STATUS
WAS SEALED
BY HIS
STARRING
ROLES IN
GEORGE
LUCAS' MEGA-HIT
TRILOGY,
"STAR
WARS."



HE TOPPED THAT WITH
HIS MAGNIFICENT
PERFORMANCES IN THE
CLASS ACTION-
PACKED
AND HIGHLY
POPULAR
INDIANA
JONES FILMS BY
STEVEN SPIELBERG.



1985'S SUPER-HIT,
"WITNESS" BROKE THE
SCREEN-HERO IMAGE
FOR HARRISON AND SPOT-
LIGHTED A SERIOUS
SIDE TO HIS ACTING. TO-
DAY HE REIGNS AS ONE
OF HOLLYWOOD'S
MOST POPULAR
FILM ACTORS.



Ron Howard, at left, and Brian Grazer of Imagine Films.

Opie-Wan Kenobi Ventures Into Lucas' Fantasy World

Opie-Wan Kenobi guides us.

—A "Willow" cast member

By MICHAEL CIEPLY,
Times Staff Writer

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—George Lucas said not to tell.

But Ron Howard is much too nice to clam up completely about "Willow," the fantasy epic he is directing for the secretive producer.

"It has lots of sword fights, chases, action, all that stuff," Howard ventures, clearly apprehensive even though Lucas is far away from the set.

No warning thunderclap intervenes. So the director, a boyish 33, pushes on:

The movie does take place in "pre-history," Howard explains. "But not in any strictly historical sense."

Remarkably, it has a gaggle of 9-inch-high "brownies," not to mention a 3-foot, 4-inch hero named Willow. But it is decidedly not "full of puppets, like 'Labyrinth,'" he warns, tugging nervously at the brim of his cap.

The story, moreover, is "human," "moral" and "funny." As if, says Howard, "John Ford had directed 'The Wizard of Oz.'

"Willow" may also be the biggest risk to date in Howard's hitherto charmed career as a film maker.

Lucasfilm Ltd., which is producing the movie, and MGM/UA Communications Co., which will distribute it in May, declined to disclose the film's budget. But "Willow," laden with special effects, clearly promises to be big, expensive and wholly unlike "Co-

Please see HOWARD, Page 4

Continued from Page 1

coob," "Splash" or any of the five largely comedic—and largely successful—films that Howard, a former child television star, has directed so far.

Under the best of circumstances, Hollywood tends to consider fantasy films a tough gamble. That is partly because they require outsized shooting budgets and partly because they seldom rely on the drawing power of big-name actors. The most prominent star in "Willow," for instance, is Val Kilmer, who played Iceman in Paramount's "Top Gun."

"Labyrinth," a notorious recent failure that was co-produced by Lucas and Muppet-master Jim Henson, cost a reported \$30 million but took in only about \$12 million at the box office when Tri-Star Pictures released it last year. Lucasfilm's "Howard the Duck," which blended the fantastic with hip reality, cost \$35 million to produce but grossed under \$15 million in theaters for Universal in 1986.

According to Howard, Lucas now has some of his own fortune at risk on "Willow"—a movie that the producer hopes will find a "core audience" similar to those he tapped with "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" in the 1970s and early '80s.

Apparently, Lucas believes that Howard's warmth and light touch are crucial to reaching such viewers en masse once again.

"George brought me in because he wanted a lot of the things that I naturally seem to go for," Howard says during an interview just days before shooting ended at Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic facility in Northern California.

"I mean, we even have a few jokes. And there's heart and strength of character . . . and I'm kind of pleased by that."

While declining to discuss "Willow" in detail, Howard does say that Lucas was physically present on the movie's set "60% of the time" and has been more closely involved than with any other project since "Raiders," which Lucasfilm produced, with Steven Spielberg directing, in 1981.

The script, by comedy writer Rob Dolman ("WKRP in Cincinnati"), is based on a story Lucas originally conceived of more than a decade ago.

Howard participated closely in developing the script. Moreover, he took the director's job only after a detailed negotiation during which he and Lucas outlined their respective creative prerogatives.

Neither Howard nor Lucas, for instance, ever met with Dolman without the other present. Nor did Lucas, although himself a skilled director, ever take charge on the set. "He's not out there at 7 in the morning. And he's not talking what color the arrowheads should be," says Howard.

Under an unusual arrangement, Imagine Films Entertainment Inc.—a publicly traded company of which Howard is co-chief executive officer with producer Brian Grazer—will receive the director's \$2.15 million fee for working on "Willow." Howard in turn receives a \$450,000 annual salary plus bonuses from Imagine, of which he and Grazer own 63%.

Howard says that he and Grazer feel badly about the sharp drop in Imagine's stock, which fell from a high of \$15.50 within the last year to about \$3.75 recently, as the falling market battered most small film makers. (The director also claims to have lost a bundle when his MCA and Disney stock holdings tumbled at the same time.)

Imagine, he adds, will now have to "watch our overhead, and pull in a little tight," because it may be a hard for small companies to raise new financing in the near future. □

Interviewed separately in Los Angeles, Grazer said the market collapse "reinforced" Imagine's pre-existing plan to close its New York office—a move that will result in a cutback of "five or six" of Imagine's approximately 20 employees. Neil Braun, the company's chief operating officer, left Imagine in connection with the move and was recently appointed a senior vice president of Viacom International.

Grazer has been at the company's helm for most of the last year while Howard has been involved with "Willow" in New Zealand, Wales and Northern California. At Imagine's Century City headquarters, the slim 36-year-old Grazer works at a desk with cactus-shaped legs in a color-splashed office designed by Taos, N.M., artist Jim Wagner. The furniture—including a chair with rabbit-shaped arms—is loosely modeled on the bedroom of Grazer's son. "I asked for color and fun. I didn't want people to take me too seriously."

Grazer recently co-produced "Like Father, Like Son" for Tri-Star. A modest hit, the movie took in more than \$30 million at the box office this fall. As with "Willow," Imagine will receive a fee and a percentage of any profits for Grazer's services on the Tri-Star film and other movies.

Of 35 movie projects Imagine is considering for its own initial productions, at least 10 are "in good shape and are likely to proceed" in the coming months, Grazer said.

But Howard concedes that Imagine, formed 16 months ago, has been slower than he expected in launching the first of the four or five films the company expects to produce annually—largely because he and Grazer found themselves to be more cautious in using their own company's resources than they were as film makers hustling money from the studios.

"For several months, Brian and I didn't want to take that same kind of leap with our own money," Howard says. "We wanted to be really sure, because this was *our* money."

Imagine's television operations have moved somewhat more quickly. The company's series "Ohara" is on the air with ABC this fall, although the show is seriously lagging in the ratings. Imagine also is producing a half-hour comedy series called "Poison" for Showtime and has pilots submitted to ABC and NBC.

In tackling "Willow," Howard says he wanted to test himself with the fantasy genre, an area he touched lightly in filming "Coconuts," a kind of geriatric romance with a science-fiction kicker, which was released by 20th Century Fox in 1985.

Howard was also eager to collaborate with Lucas, who directed him as a teen actor in "American Graffiti," thus helping to end a jobless spell that followed a childhood during which Howard was best known as Opie Taylor of "The Andy Griffith Show."

If humorists on the set had fun with the notion of Opie as Obi-Wan, the Jedi knight of "Star Wars," Howard nonetheless shows himself to be a strong director with little inclination to compromise on tough shots.

On one of the last shooting days, he pushed Los Angeles club comedian Rick Overton, as one of the brownies, through some tricky scenes being played on the flat roof of a van on a cold and windy mud flat near San Pablo Bay in Marin County.

"Just think of all the phobias you've overcome," Howard, ever encouraging, shouts to Overton when the scenes finally wrap.

"Great. Next we'll work on commitment to a relationship," Overton snaps back.

Steve Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment said that in addition to its next "Indiana Jones," there are new "Back to the Future" and "Gremlins" being developed. But no plans *today* for another "E.T." (though a treatment for a sequel was written years ago), just as Lucasfilm has no indication when, and if, "Star Wars IV" will be back in force.

"Star Wars" film creator George Lucas is negotiating to build a "Disneyland-like" retail complex that would become a showpiece of redevelopment efforts in downtown San Jose, according to a developer associated with the project. Pending final negotiations, Lucas would lease space to operate high-tech movie theaters and upscale snack and specialty shops, developer Kimball Small said. Lucas' project would occupy up to a quarter of a \$35-million retail pavilion envisioned by city officials adjacent to the Fairmont Hotel, Small said. Lucas and Lucasfilm representatives could not be reached for comment on the proposal.

MOVIES

Actress Carrie Fisher has filed suit against her former business manager, saying he mishandled \$6 million of her money while Fisher was suffering from a dependency on prescription drugs. In the Los Angeles Superior Court suit, filed Monday, Fisher, of "Star Wars" fame, contends she entrusted Maurice Joel Goldstein and his MSI Management Services with \$6 million. The suit claims Goldstein, Fisher's business manager from September, 1978, to April, 1986, made bad investments and used Fisher's money to make loans to business partners. The suit went on to say the ex-manager took advan-

tage of her "impaired cognitive, psychological and emotional state." Goldstein was unavailable for comment on Tuesday.

'Star Wars' Echoes in the Plot of 'Willow'

By PAT H. BROESKE

The secretive George Lucas isn't talking about the "Willow" story line. Neither is the rest of the "Willow" gang.

But The Times has obtained a copy of the working script (subject to change, of course) by Bob Dolman, based upon a story by Lucas.

Turns out it's set a long time ago, in a kind of world far, far away, and involves an unlikely hero on a quest. But in order to carry out that quest our hero must first learn to summon up the magical powers that lie within him.

Sound familiar? There are more "Star Wars"-like touches—a re-

Please see 'WILLOW,' Page 4.

'WILLOW': Once Upon a Time... in a Magical Land

Continued from Page 1
luctant swashbuckling sidekick, a feisty, fighting femme. Plus, all kinds of odd-looking creatures.

(But in "Willow," there are no spaceships. And the baddie wears a crown rather than a black mask.)

Curious for more? Then read on, but keep in mind that "Willow" is a work in progress. Editing, special effects and other elements of post-production could bring about changes.

□

It all begins one night at the foreboding Nockmaar Castle, which looms atop a volcanic mountainside. . . .

There's another castle, a good one—named Tir Asleen. Located across the valley of flowers, Tir Asleen is the destination of Willow Ufgood—a Nelwyn farmer who's seeking to fulfill a prophecy.

At 3-foot-4, Willow is short as Nelwyns go. But the task ahead for him is a tall one. He's got to muster up the courage—and the magic—to escort a very special baby girl (she's a Daikini, which is another race) to her heritage. Warwick Davis, who played Wicket the

Ewok in "Return of the Jedi," is Willow.

Ah, but there are so many obstacles—not the least of which is evil Queen Bavmorda (Jean Marsh), with her Nockmaar troops and their hideous Death Dogs.

Willow finds a sidekick in Madmartigan (Val Kilmer), a roguish opportunist who deems himself "the greatest swordsman who ever lived."

En route to Tir Asleen, they encounter a slew of beasties—like baby-eating Picts (with tattooed faces and arms), attacking trolls, Rock Puffers (pillow-size wall crabs that screech) and the two-headed Eborsk.

Madmartigan meets the beautiful, red-haired Sorsha (Joanne Whalley), with whom he exchanges longing gazes. But wait, she's the daughter of the wicked queen. . . .

There's magical stuff too. And cute scenes—like the one in which elves make the baby cry in order to collect her tears (in tiny elf buckets). How else to create dew drops?

And there's enchantment, like the fairy kingdom where "the forest is a luminous Milky Way of dancing flying fairies, like fireflies." Foremost among the fairies: the sylphlike fairy queen Cherlindrea.

For more details, check your local theater next May 25, which also happens to be the 11th anniversary of the release of "Star Wars."

MOVIES

Harrison Ford Searches For Wife in Thriller



Ford needs Emmanuelle Seigner to help him find his wife.

Frantic, directed by Roman Polanski, has a classic thriller plot: A happily married San Francisco surgeon (Harrison Ford), in Paris for a convention, discovers his wife has been kidnapped. He spends the rest of the movie in the

back alleys of the city trying desperately to find her—aided by a gorgeous and somewhat treacherous young woman. "It's interesting," says the co-producer, Thom Mount, "to see what Polanski does with a story about a man afraid of losing his wife, since few people we know have lost their wives in a more publicly hideous manner than Roman [whose pregnant wife, Sharon Tate, was murdered by the Charles Manson gang]. It's safe to say that the subject matter means something special to him."

A Right to Know?

So, I'm reading the Calendar section and I start an article entitled "Star Wars' Echoes in the Plot of 'Willow'" (by Pat H. Broeske, Nov. 30) and I'm about a paragraph in when I realize I'm reading pieces of the story of a movie I haven't seen and I slam the paper shut.

You guys kill me. Why do you do this? Does this fall under the heading of "the public has a right to know"? Or is this some journalistic version of that childish cruelty, that impulse to spoil, that you so smugly personify?

Are you aware that ideas can be stolen? That they can appear in television a lot faster than in a film? That right now someone can be ripping off some sad exploitative quickie version of other peoples' work and spoiling, truly harming, the entertainment impact, to say nothing of the artistic impact, of the work that was so mugged? And mugged, in no small portion, by you?

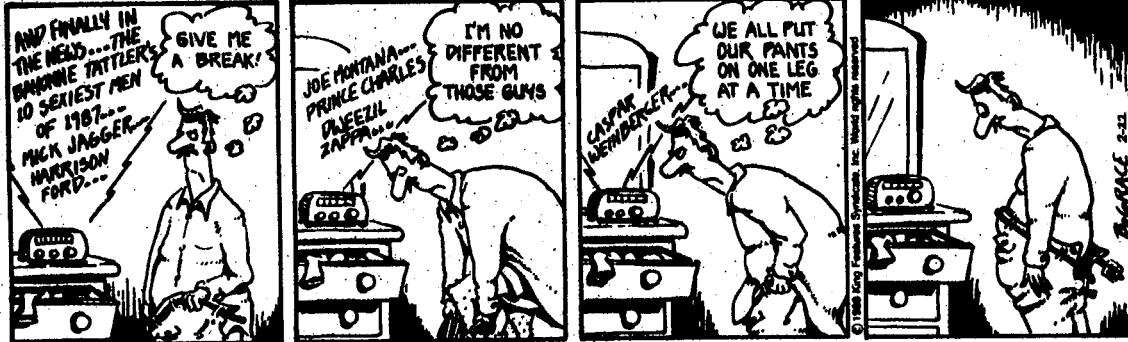
And please don't bother to say you didn't "tell the ending." Intangibles, detail, tone and other such subtleties that you either disdain or don't comprehend, these things are as violated by your misbehavior and misuse of your position.

And shush, please, about freedom of the press. You are apparently of the school that says if it *can* be printed, it *should* be printed. Balderdash. Try to remember what civility means, and grace.

In a phrase, only in cases of national security do you have the right to behave like an egregious weasel.

RICHARD DREYFUSS
Culver City

ERINIE By Bud Grace



FIRST OFF . . .

Director-producers Steven Spielberg and George Lucas are to testify on artists' rights before the U.S. Senate Judiciary subcommittee on patents, copyrights and trademarks, it was announced Thursday. The March 3 hearing—scheduled by subcommittee chairman Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.)—is on legislation to make American copyright laws conform with the 100-year-old international copyright standards of the Berne Convention. "Film makers and other artists create works that should be allowed to stand or fall on their own, without the intrusion of so-called technological advancements such as the colorization and time compression of films," Spielberg said in a statement released by the Directors Guild of America. Spielberg will be making his second trip to Capitol Hill to discuss the issue; this will be Lucas' first.

SAY HELLO TO 'WILLOW'

This movie will be all over the place, by george

If you haven't heard it already, expect "Willow Ufgood" to become a household name soon. It comes from George Lucas, who also gave us *Star Wars*, Yoda, Darth Vader and R2D2.

Willow, Lucas' latest adventure in fantasy filmmaking, is scheduled to open May 25 nationwide.

Directed by Ron Howard (Opie, Richie, *Splash* and *Cocoon*), the PG film steps back into a mythical land to bring you such characters as good-guy Willow Ufgood, swashbuckling

rogue Madmartigan and the evil Queen Bavarroda.

And get ready for the onslaught of tie-ins: More than 25 companies already are planning to market *Willow* products for children, including action figures, lunch kits, underwear sets, sleeping bags and tents, board games and coloring books.

At your supermarket, look for prizes, coupons and giveaways.

— Mary Beth Marklein

ATTENTION STAR WARS FANS!
Producer seeks interesting personal STAR WARS experiences for TV Documentary about STAR WARS. Please reply
LA TIMES BOX-V 034
Los Angeles, Ca 90053

'There's a whole generation growing up without



□ Warwick Davis, who plays Willow in George Lucas's latest film

Oram
at large



TO A Hollywood producer with the reputation, vision and bank account of George (Star Wars) Lucas, it seemed a reasonable request: "What we want," said his representative, "is 250 horses. And they gotta be black."

Say that again? "Yeah, 250 horses, all black. Shouldn't be a problem." Or words to that effect.

Now in Hollywood there'd be no difficulty with 250 black horses — Hollywood could supply 250 pink horses at a moment's notice. But this was Queenstown, a resort of less than 5000 residents in the mountains of New Zealand's South Island, and black horses were a little thin on the ground.

"When they made the request, everyone laughed," said Jenny McLeod, whose husband runs a trail-riding stable in the area. "We've got 30 horses; only one's black. Maybe they'll spray paint them or something."

The crows and possums were easier to obtain than the black horses. So were the 500 extras and the dozens of dwarfs, the Nelwyns and the Nockmaars and the ...

But wait. First, to find why George Lucas was filming in a small New Zealand town in the snow and slush of winter, it is necessary to go back to another time and another place. Back to a Californian town called Modesto.

Star Wars



□ Joanne Whalley keeps warm between takes on location

Lucas grew up in Modesto, a scrawny, shy boy who, to compensate for his failings as a student, found solace in the fantasy of comic books and Saturday morning television cartoons.

After attending film school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, he began making

movies, the first in 1971 called THX-1138, followed by the successful American Graffiti.

Then the idea of Star Wars began forming in his mind.

"I was trying to get fairy tales, myths and religion down to a distilled state, studying the pure form to see how and why it worked," he is quoted as saying in Dale Pollock's book *Skywalking: The Life and Films of George Lucas*.

"There's a whole generation growing up without any kind of fairy tales. And kids need fairy tales — it's an important thing for society to have for kids."

Taking pen to paper — or perhaps fingers to word processor — for the first time since Indiana Jones, he wrote a tale called Willow, an "adventure fantasy that takes place a long time ago in a mythical land".

More than a year ago preparations began to make it into a movie. Shooting started in England and Wales last April, and moved to Queenstown a couple of weeks ago.

It's a big budget movie, costing \$51 million in New Zealand currency. The story goes that when studio executives back in Los Angeles heard of the \$51 million, they thought it was American dollars and went several shades of puce.

"What's George doing, for chrissake, making a sequel to Heaven's Gate? He's meant to be shooting in Noo Zealand, not buying the god-dam country!"

In American currency the budget is a still hefty \$30 million.

fairy tales – and kids need fairy tales...'

man spends \$50m on his secret fantasy



□ George Lucas and Ron Howard rugged up on location for Willow. Thermal underwear was de rigueur garb in-the snow and blizzards.

INSET: Val Kilmer, who plays Madmartigan in the new film, discusses the script with director Ron Howard



mountain scenery and snow were essential to the story.

Lucas said on location last week they had looked at Switzerland or the Rockies, but settled on Queenstown because the area had more to offer, including the fact that it was winter, the snow was low on the hills and it was reasonably accessible.

"It's on a smaller scale, it's really wonderful that way," he said. "It shifts so dramatically, the mountains rise up so fast and I don't know any place in the world where you have such a dramatic shift."

He was speaking in a place called Gibbstown, out of Queenstown, an old gold mining area that had been cut into canyons by sluicing 100 years ago. Nothing remains of the bustling, hard-living mining community but an old wooden sign and a few crumbling stone and mud walls of miners' huts.

All around soared snow-covered mountains. And along a canyon appeared a dwarf on horseback who, six years ago, covered in fur like a teddy bear, played Wicket the Ewok in *Return Of The Jedi*.

His name was Warwick Davis and his appearance said something about the film, which was fortunate because no one else was saying much at all. When cast and crew signed their contracts, a clause forbade them talking to the media about Willow — the punishment, perhaps, an hour in the company of the slavering Jabba the Hutt.

"I know it's got fairies, goblins and elves," a crew member said, "so you can guess it's some sort of fantasy. Beyond that you'll have to ask George."

But Lucas wasn't about to be questioned. He would say only that Willow was set in a mythical land and that its message was basically "one should be responsible for one's own life and the social well-being of others".

Ron Howard, the director, formerly of *Happy Days* and later responsible for such successful fantasies as *Splash* and *Cocoon*, was no help.

"Willow is an adventure story filled with excitement, wonder and danger, but it is also about very unlikely heroes and their efforts — both successful and unsuccessful — to learn to trust themselves, follow their hearts and do what they believe is right," he said cautiously.

Geoff Freeman, the film's publicity director, also guarded the storyline as if it were a State secret.

"We want it to be a surprise when it's released next year," he said. "And George doesn't want the media on location learning the little tricks of the trade."

He did say it would have a dazzling array of special visual effects — only to be expected on a Lucas fantasy. New technology has allowed them to advance on what has been achieved before, although the effects will be more out of *Indiana Jones* than *Star Wars* and will be produced by Lucas's own company, Industrial Light and Magic.

Lucas had gone to some trouble to ensure nothing about the film was leaked.

Said one actor: "When special effects are called for, we've got blank spaces in our scripts. Even we don't know what's going on."

The cast list revealed a little

"I said at one point, 'So, how many senators are

there, actually?' I told my mother that later, and she said, 'Oh, darling, I'm so ashamed of you. Everyone knows there's one per state.'

Carrie Fisher,
daughter of Debbie
Reynolds, telling the
'Washington Post' about her
blind date with a senator

"The truth is, I make better banana bread than sense."

Carrie Fisher,
the domestic singer-actress-
novelist-screenwriter

US DECEMBER 14, 1987

more, if only the names conjured up from Lucas's imagination. Lucas has always been one for magical names, the opening lines on his 13-page plot summary for *Star Wars* beginning: "The story of Mace Windu, a revered Jedi-bendu of Opuchi who was related to Usby C.J. Thape, Padawaan learner to the famed Jedi."

Val Kilmer, who starred with Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*, plays Madmartigan, "the handsome but undisciplined daikini warrior who helps Willow in his search for the Kingdom of Tir Asleen."

Joanne Whalley, nominated for an award for her role in the television series *Edge Of Darkness*, plays Sorsha, "daughter of the evil Queen Balmorda."

Jean Marsh, known for her role as Rose in *Upstairs, Downstairs*, plays Queen Balmorda "whose powers are threatened by a young daikini child."

Gavan O'Herlihy, who has appeared in films from *Superman III* to *Space Riders*, plays Airk, "leader of the daikini army, which strives to overcome Queen Balmorda's Nockmaar troops."

Warwick Davis is Willow Ufgood, "the Nelwyn chosen to escort a special daikini baby to the kingdom of Tir Asleen."

And so on. At the very least it's obvious Willow is no kitchen sink drama.

Finesse

Filming began in Snowdonia, Wales, and around castles where 280 dwarfs, playing the Nelwyn villagers, were used. Then after three months, 90 cast and crew were flown to Queenstown.

The resort, devoted to skiing and digging into tourists' pockets with all the finesse of a dragline gouging earth (can of Fosters \$4, sandwich and coffee \$7), was no stranger to Hollywood and its eccentric and demanding ways.

A few weeks before Lucas arrived, Disney Productions had completed *The Rescue*, starring Charles Haid of *Hill Street Blues* and Marc Price of *Family Ties*, a tale of children attempting to get their fathers from a North Korean prison.

In Queenstown? Well, that doesn't matter to Hollywood which works on the grounds that appearance is more important than reality and, anyway, who has been to North Korea lately to check out the scenery?

Around \$7 million was spent in the district, including \$1 million for a North Korean fortress.

Unlike Australia, where Actors Equity dictates the number of overseas performers in a production, New Zealand encourages the big companies to do business.

"I would not like to see imported productions work to the detriment of the local industry, but as long as there is surplus capacity here and New Zealand money is not involved, why not," said David Gascoigne, chairman of the New Zealand Film Commission.

Filming of *Willow* was not easy in the high country, where blizzards like to come as a surprise, the morning light does not seep through the sullen, snow-bloated clouds until 8am and the wind slices like a knife through clothing.

"They measured us up for thermal underwear before we left England," said Mark Northover, who plays one of the Nelwyns and stands 129cm in his socks.

"When the manufacturers got my measurements they wouldn't believe them. They wrote back saying someone must have misread the tape measure," he said.

Last Wednesday was the big day. On a river flat called Paradise at the head of Lake Wakatipu, 500 extras clad in armor and carrying shields (each more than 175cm high to make the little people look smaller) and earning \$80 a day, began filming a battle scene.

Paradise would have appealed to Lucas; for it is a place of magical names. The River Jordan flows by, the Judah Road winds into the mountains, the Rock of Ages is a landmark and surrounding peaks are the stuff of mythology — Cerberus, Chaos, Cosmos, Pluto and Poseidon.

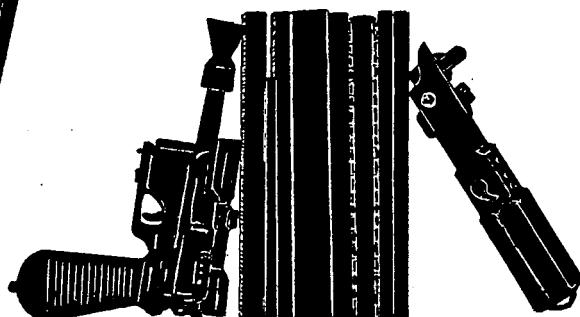
Riders were recruited from sheep stations: stringy, unshaven men with an impressive thirst for Speights, a brew out of Dunedin that is flat, brown and tastes like it's been drunk before.

The wranglers thought working on a movie would be fun. It was, for about five minutes, but a day or two on location changed their minds.

"Hell, it was cold," said one. "We waited four hours in the snow for a shot, then had to do it four times."

The film company paid several thousand dollars to upgrade the road so equipment could be moved in, and fences on Arcadia Station, near Paradise, were removed to allow the 250 horses — by now all black — to gallop unhindered.

"With all the problems, it's still worth doing it here," said Lucas. "We just have to travel carefully."



MOS EISLEY MARKETPLACE

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A NEW CHALLENGE--21 years after ROTJ, Luke gets a pair of half-Corellian princes to train as Jedi Knights, and a former Imp governor has designs on Alliance territory--and Princess Leia. 228 pp.; art by Dunster, Hawks, Wells, St. John. \$12.50 fc. REVENGE OF THE SITH--20 years post-ANC, Luke is faced with the most important work in all the thousand generations of Jedi--work that may claim his life. 200 pp.; art by River, Wells. \$14.00 fc. Both Fan-Q nominee novels by Ellen Randolph. Checks payable to Melanie Rawn. Full Court Press, 15820 Ocean Avenue, Whittier, CA 90604.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3 features material by Carolyn Golledge, Martie Benedict, Marcia Brin, T. S. Weddell, Michelle Malkin, Jacqueline Taero, Carol Mularski, Robin White, Kate Birkel, Matthew Whitney, Judith Tyler, Ronda Henderson, Gail Small, Sandi Jones, and more of your favorite writers both old and new. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Steven Fox, Jenni, Nancy Stasulis, Barbara Frances-Simon, Pat Easley, Mark and Melea Fisher, Jim Markle and others. \$17.50 fc. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

BETTER IDEA ZINE -- ATTENTION HARRISON FORD FANS!!! Are you looking for a different zine devoted exclusively to Mr. Ford? Well, look no further -- Better Idea Zine is the answer. Not just a newszine, not just a fiction zine, but a combination of the best of both, BIZ comes to you quarterly (3 times in 1987 - May, Sept. and Dec.). Averaging 80 pages, it's chock full of news of the doings of your favorite actor, as well as reader comments, poetry, fiction, artwork and lots of other goodies. Don't be left out. Join the other Ford fans throughout the US and around the world in keeping up with Jones (and Allie and -?). Rates: \$5/issue Special Fourth Class, \$6/issue First Class; \$7/issue overseas airmail. Check or money order payable to: Cynthia L. Smith, 31 Lincoln Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446. Or send SASE for more information. Being a Ford fan is a better idea!

CHOICE PARTS--a new Harrison Ford zine, just a bit more on the adult side. Featuring "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his own business when the strangest looking thing he'd

ever seen fell out of the sky--with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess as its passenger. "The One That Got Away" by Cypher. Han had a lead on the most fabulous jewels in the galaxy. Now, all he had to do was dive to the bottom of an ocean-covered planet, contact the local piscine inhabitants and convince them to turn over their treasure to him. "Remembrance" by Carolyn Golledge. Han and Leia had returned to Corell to find a sacred icon that had belonged to Han's family, shortly before the family holding was destroyed by Imperial troops. Without it, Han could never proclaim his true identity. "Pastorale" by Elizabeth Wilson. Kenny Boyd was haunted by his experiences in Vietnam, and a particular nightmare spilled over to engulf his fiancee. Other material includes fiction by Ann Wortham, Marci Erwin, and Jeannie Webster, plus poetry by Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Patricia D'Orazio, Sarah Macht-DeWitt and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon, plus more. \$15.00 first class. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

DATAZINE -- Datazine contains the most up-to-date information you need to know: Fanzine Listings, reviews, news, features, LoCs, and more. Datazine is a great value. Even with the rising printing and postal charges, Datazine is still only \$1.67 per issue. You deserve to know what is happening in the world of fanzines and you can trust Datazine to let you know! What are you waiting for? \$6.00 for 3 issues, \$10.00 for six issues, or best value \$15.00 for nine issues. DATAZINE, c/o Steven and Kathie Walker, P. O. Box 24937, Denver, CO 80222.

DRAGON'S TEETH by Carol Hines-Stroede. A novel of the first STAR WARS trilogy. Illustrated by Nancy Stasulis. Edited by Joyce Yasner and Devra Michele Langsam. Now available from Poison Pen Press, 627 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. SASE for price information.

FIELD STUDIES II. Features "A Day in the Life" by L. R. Virgil. Let's put it this way...the attempted rape by five co-eds, the subsequent faculty hearing and his summary dismissal from Marshall College was the high point of Indy's day! "Pact With the Devil" by T. S. Weddell. Indy's Jewish colleague has managed to escape from Nazi Germany, but his wife and children are being held there. The price of their

freedom? Indy must retrieve a priceless sacred object for Hitler. "The Crystal Skull" by Cheree Cargill. Indy had only dreamed of ever seeing this incredible artifact, but other parties were determined to have it as well. And everyone overlooked the fact that the skull had a mind of its own. More adventures by Patricia D'Orazio, Ann Wortham, and Jeannie Webster. Poetry by Martie Benedict and Beth Lenz. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Suzy Sansom, Cheree Cargill and Laura Virgil. ONLY A FEW COPIES LEFT!! \$14 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

FLIP OF A COIN, the fanzine featuring selections based on all characters portrayed by Harrison Ford throughout his career, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, cartoons, art, etc., for future issues. Issue #11 is now available. 314 pages of exciting adventures with many of Harrison Ford's memorable characters. Send a SASE for flyer or \$14.75 plus \$2.50 First Class Postage to FLIP OF A COIN, c/o Paula Truelove and Jenny McAdams, Editors, 502 McKeithan St., Apt. 4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUARDIAN 7 contains two 1-o-n-g novellas, "Sabacc!" by Birkel and "In the Passage," by Knights; plus "What Price Friendship?" by Bielowicz; "And He is Us," by Hines-Stroede; "Pavane for a Dead Princess," by Randolph; "Loose Ends," by Otten & Rosenberg; more. Lots of poetry and art as well. Covers by Hoolahan and Siegrist. 280 pp.; offset, perfect bound. \$12.60 bk sp hd ins; \$18.10, Europe (air); \$20.10, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; 1212 E. Howell #6; Seattle WA 98122. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates.

GUARDIAN 6 contains material from over 60 contributors! Here's just a sample: "Returning to the Clan," by Bielowicz (ST); "Member of the Guild," by Birkel (SW); "The Firefly Factor," by Carragher (ST); "High Flight," by Duane (SW); "Cinechrome Reality," by Gonzales (SW/IJ - the sequel to "Hear the Echo Lonely," with the permission of Marcia Brin); "The Acolyte," by Hines-Stroede (SW); "Mirror, Mirror," by Hootahan (SW); "The Mickey Mouse Affair," by Kirby (UNCLE); more. Art by Hawks, Johansen, Martynn, O'Neill, Reitz, River, and Siegrist; poetry and filks by Berman, Bowles, Delapenia, Ecklar, Gatonpaulis, Grant, Heyes, Nuernberg, Nussman, and Sacksteder. Covers by Johansen and Walske. 216 pp.; offset; reduced; perfect bound. \$10.60 bk sp hd ins; \$14.50, Europe (air); \$16.75, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; 1212 E. Howell #6, Seattle, WA 98122. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates.

GUARDIAN 5 is a full-length SW saga novel, "Stormbrother," by Fern Marder & Carol Walske, set more than a year after the end of the victorious revolution. Who is Areth Solo, and why are they saying terrible things about him? Can Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi re-establish the balance between the light and dark sides? Covers and artwork by Walske; poetry by Marder. 200 pp.; not reduced; perfect bound. \$9.60 bk sp hd ins; \$13.50, Europe (air); \$15.75, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; 1212 E. Howell #6; Seattle, WA 98122. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates. Save Postage: Order 5 & 6 together for only \$17.80 bk sp

hd ins. Order 5 & 7 for \$20.25; 6 & 7 for \$21.25.

HIBERNATION SICKNESS. A new bi-monthly SW newsletter. Each issue is 16-20 pages filled with fanfic, art, poetry, cartoons, etc. Contributions deadline for October issue is September 1st. \$10.00 for 6 issues in USA, \$14.00 overseas. Sample issue \$2.00. Lisa Thomas, 7606 Lady St., North Charleston, SC 29418.

JUST DESERTS #1. All RAT PATROL zine. Contents include stories by Bartlett, Bryson, Carr, Farnsworth, Knights and others. Art by Dani, Virgil, and Otten. Contains a SW crossover and an Indiana Jones crossover as well. \$10.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LAST STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD is a BLAKE'S 7 5th season in five parts. Written by Ann Wortham & Leah Rosenthal with art by Dani, Rosenthal, Karen River and Deb Walsh. Full color cover. They're going extremely fast! \$18.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAL. Still some copies of the first issue available. Stories, art, poetry, and puzzles by Hennig, Mark and Melea Fisher, Markle, Bales, Wortham, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Cargill, Cooper, and Dani. \$10.00 (includes postage). DAGOBAL is 100 pp. reduced. ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAL AGAIN (second issue). Now available, featuring more stories, art, poetry, filks and cartoons by your favorites such as Hennig, Wortham, Erwin, Randolph, Carr, St. Cyr, Jones, Henderson, Wells, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Malkin, Grant, Markle, Bales, Dani, the Fishers, and cover by Karen River. Send \$12.50 (includes postage) to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 76061, or send SASE for flier with story listings. DAGOBAL AGAIN is 200 pp. reduced.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAL #3. Now available. SASE to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 75061 for info.

POWER OF SPEECH #3 is now available. Biggest issue yet with 44 pages! Includes discussion on BLAKE'S 7, THE PROFESSIONALS, ALIENS, slash fiction, the STAR TREK films and series. Articles: controversial interview with David Gerrold talking about K/S, ST films and series, views on life, etc., conducted by Randall Landers and Tim Farley. Controversial review by Kristie Brady of long-running ST letterzine INTERSTAT. Gorgeous pen and ink front cover by Bobbie Hawkins of Spock from "Plato's Stepchildren". Various and sundry items commenting on NASA and the CHALLENGER space shuttle. POWER OF SPEECH is a ST/media letterzine dedicated to the uninhibited right of free fannish expression. Civilized controversy is not only welcomed but actively sought. All issues are \$2 each, postage paid (\$3.25 overseas). Xerox copies of #1 and #2 still available for the same price. Free copies available for review. Sales at conventions also sought. Write: Sandra H. Necchi, 4918 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

PRESSURE POINT -- a new bimonthly newsletter designed to keep out in touch with what's happening

in B7 fandom, what US conventions are featuring B7 guests and where, what zines you can buy or submit to, what B7 clubs you can join, in fact, almost everything that's happening in this growing US fandom, all in a concise and timely form. Each issue features a calendar of events, zine listings, zine reviews, and a marketplace. \$3.00/3 issues, \$6.00/6 issues. For subscription info, please SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels--on both sides of the law! #1 includes "Identity Crisis" (SW), "Three's Company" (Harrison Ford story), "The Fan Who Never Returned" (SW/Fantasy Island), and more! Limited supply left. \$7.50 US, \$10.00 overseas. #2 includes "Delusions of Grandeur" (BG), "A Time of Life and Death" (THJ), "Aspasia" (SW), "Perchance to Dream" (SW), "Delirium's Dream" (TJH), "Just One of Those Days" (SW). Special Jon-Eric Hexum cover and memorial prose. More!! Approx 100 pages. Now available. \$12.00 US, \$15.00 overseas. Please make checks payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SIGNS OF WISDOM: A "Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski. Kaili Lars learns that would-be Jedi must pass a Test, which is different for each person. A few copies left. \$9.00 1st class, checks payable to Chris Callahan. Order from The Unknown Press c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740. Checks payable to Chris Callahan.

SITH YEARBOOK is still available! A SW zine from the Imperial perspective. Stories & poetry by Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Tennison/Stevens, Wilson. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper, Griffith, bernie! and bes shahar. Price \$7.00 plus \$2.40 for 1st class postage. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Some same-sex relationships (Piett and Serzho, of course).

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 2.5 (all-BLAKE'S 7) has been reprinted for the final time. For adults only. Please be advised that this zine contains some slash material. There are only a few left, so please enclose a SASE with your order. \$5.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3 (multi-media) is available but going fast. Universes include B7, IJ, AT, AW, S&S, MV and others. Contributors include Carr, Jeffords, Sharpe, Terrell, Wortham & Rosenthal, and many, many more. 300 pages. \$17.00 book rate, insured. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.5 (all-BLAKE'S 7) is available in its final reprint. For adults only with some slash material. \$9.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.75 (all-BLAKE'S 7) is in print. All slash this time and all A/V. Definitely for adults only. \$9.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte

Springs, FL 32701.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: The zine that started it all! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2: Winner of the 1986 Fan Q Award for Best SW Zine!! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. \$13.50 in person; \$14.50 book rate; \$17.00 first class mail. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3: Winner of the 1987 Fan Q Award for Best Star Wars Zine is sold out! Thank you--and sorry!! We are accepting SASEs for a possible reprint of this issue; it would take a minimum of 100 to reprint it, however; and it may not be available for the same price as the original copies. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #4: is also sold out. Thank you for your support. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #5 is here! Featuring fiction by Carolyn Golledge, Carol Moffat, Madalena Mumford, L. A. Carr, Mary St. Cyr, Carrie Keeler, Christine Haire, Ruth Radecki, Marti Schuller, Samia Martz, Karen Ripley and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Melea Fisher, Dianne Smith, Jean Kluge, Dani, Cheryl Mandus, Rebecca Carey, Catherine Churko and others. Also additional art, poetry, stuff & nonsense, and the 1987 Wookiee Commode Consumer's Guide to SW zines by Sharon Saye. We have a color cover, inside and out, sure to quicken the pulse of any SW fans--and with the ability to raise Luke fans from the dead! Available now! \$17.00 in person; \$20.00 first class mail; \$18.50 book rate. DOUBLE D PRESS, Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED. This is a three-volume limited edition featuring new material, reprinted stories, and background information in this most popular fan-alternate SW universe. Reduced; double-columned; perfect-bound. Volume 1 (276 pp.) is \$15.00 in person. Add \$2.60 book rate, special handling insured. Volume 2 (336 pp.) is \$20.00 in person. Add \$3.75 book rate, special handling insured. Volume 3 (a reprint of SKYWALKER 5) is \$8.00 in person. Add \$3.25 book rate, special handling insured. Foreign orders: SAE + 2 IRCs. Sets are available for \$40.00 in person; \$48.00 book rate, special handling insured. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; 1212 E. Howell #6, Seattle, WA 98122.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4. Special "Jedi" Issue! Featuring fiction by Maggie Nowakowska, Judith Tyler, Ruth Radecki, Kate Birke, Melanie Gutierrez, James Booth, Kerry Nash, Matthew Whitney, and more of your favorite authors. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Dianne Smith, Dani, Rebecca Carey, Melanie Gutierrez and others. Hopefully due out for Media-West. SASE to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

CHOICE PARTS #2. Yes, folks, I know I'm crazy, but I'm soliciting material for CP#2. No due date has been set, but I hope to have it out sometime in 1988. This is a Harrison Ford zine just a bit more on the adult side. I want only very high quality stories and poetry. R-rated material is fine, but each story will be judged on its own merit. I'm not interested in "/" fiction, "get" stories or gratuitous sex and violence. I would like writers to stretch their creative wings a bit and explore some new territory with Harrison's various characters at the center. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

FLIP OF A COIN #12. Accepting submissions for #12. Deadline is June 15th, 1988. Due out for fall. FLIP OF A COIN, Paula Truelove & Jenny McAdams, Editors, 502 McKeithan #4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUARDIAN 8 is in need of manuscripts looking for a good home. ST, SW, UNCLE welcome. Please send them to Linda Deneroff; 1800 Ocean Parkway; Brooklyn, NY 11223.

JUST DESERTS #2 (all RAT PATROL) contains two long stories by Linda Knights, stories by Carr, Horvath, Winters, art by Winters and more. \$5.00 & legal-size SASE to reserve. Please remember that the SASE is part of the price of the zine. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

PROBABILITY SQUARE, a Blake's 7 zine from Gambit Press, is currently in the planning stages. Accepting submissions of art and fiction (no slash or x-rated fiction, but stories with adult situations will be considered on an individual basis). Contributors so far include: Annie Wortham, Julie Kramer, Michele Rosenberg, Dani Lane, Sheila Paulson, Jean Graham, Suzi Lovett, Leah Rosenthal, Theresa Buffaloe, Leigh Arnold and Laura Virgil. The zine will be approximately 250 pages long (reduced type), with a limited run of 200 copies. Submission deadline is Feb. 15, 1988 with publication date for summer (Scorpio). Art should be camera ready and manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced. To reserve a copy, send \$5.00 + legal size SASE to Laura Virgil, Gambit Press, 2207 Gaylord Drive, Dallas, TX 75227. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered.

QUARTERSTAFF, a proposed quarterly letterzine for fans of HTV/Goldcrest's ROBIN HOOD, is currently seeking LoCs, filler art and articles. SASE for details and for final price notification. Mary A. Schmidt, N8011 WI Hwy 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

SANCTUARY--Stories, filks, vignettes, poetry, and more around, between, before and after A NEW CHALLENGE and REVENGE OF THE SITH. Projected at 250+ pp. 45+ pieces of art by the likes of Siegrist, Stasulis, Martynn, Lybarger, Faddis, Kluge, River, Afton, Holmes, Churko, Fisher and Fisher. Available at MediaWest or we'll hold public executions. Extremely limited print-run. SASE + \$8 to reserve. Checks payable to Melanie Rawn. Full Court Press, 15820 Ocean Avenue, Whittier, CA 90604.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100

pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SITH YEARBOOK #2 -- Just when you thought it was safe to go back into space! Expect to be out for MediaWest 007. Some of the usual suspects are back, plus some new offerings. We can use short stories, poems, art. Please contact Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland, ME 04103. Deadline is 15 April 1987. SASE for price and info.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 4 will probably be available around the end of the year. Universes to include B7, WIZARDS & WARRIORS, REMINGTON STEELE, SCARECROW & MRS. KING, SIMON & SIMON, and more. Color cover by Laura Virgil. \$5.00 + businesssize SASE to reserve. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #2 (all BLAKE'S 7) will be in print in October '87. Stories by Carr & Hall, Hintze, Paulson, Rosenthal & Wortham, Snyder & McGhin (more HELLHOUND!), and many others. \$5.00 and business-size SASE to reserve. Please remember that the SASE is part of the price of the zine. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

STAR QUEST -- Yes, I'm crazy enough to give this a try (oops, I mean do it). I am putting out a new full-size SW zine that will premiere at MediaWestCon in 1988. I already have stories from Golledge, Hennig, Schuller, O'Dazio, Whitney, and Jones (of course). I am working on some other BNFS and some not so well known authors for submissions. I will hopefully have illustrations by some of fandom's best. Right now I am accepting contributions of vignettes, poetry, and other short subjects. If you have a really long story, send me a synopsis and possible page count. Send SASE for further information on availability and price to: Sandi Jones, 6298 Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

UP BUBBLE -- A new Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea letterzine. Now soliciting letters for first issue. Tentative debut date May 1988. SASE to Kathy Agel, 51 W. 2nd St., Bayonne, NJ 07002.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #6: Is still open for submissions of the ridiculous, sublime, offensive, and wonderful! For submissions guidelines, SASE: Samia Martz, 701 West Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Address all other correspondence to DOUBLE D PRESS; Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

XANADU -- A new multi-media zine from Falcon Press! We are looking for high quality material in your favorite universe--SW, ST, B7, RAIDERS, UNCLE, S&S, V, or whatever turns you on! R-rated is okay, but please no slash material or gratuitous violence. If interested, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

OTHER WORLDS

ANNUALS, ZINES AND BOOKS FOR SALE. Mostly British media-oriented. STAR TREK, STAR WARS, DR. WHO, BLAKE'S 7, PROFESSIONALS, etc. Send business-size SASE for list. (Note: this list changes constantly. If it's been a while since you sent for it, chances are it's different.) Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A-Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BUTTONS. Made to order with your picture, so each is a one-of-a-kind item. Keychains and other items are also available. Some photo buttons in stock: subjects include Harrison Ford, ST, SW. For information on these and other collectibles, please send SASE to Helen Clark, 249 Kingston Rd., Lexington, KY 40505.

FOR SALE: H. Ford Album, 20 pages, Asst. pub. stills color and b/w. Ranges from 3x5 to 8x10, SW to FRISCO KID. \$25.00 + postage. Contact P.J. at (303) 322-4935 or write to 1650 Wabash, Denver, CO 80220.

HF COLLECTORS--I need your help! I am looking for early, obscure TV and movie roles by Harrison, in particular THE TRIAL OF LT. WILLIAM CALLEY, plus any TV shows he guest-starred in. VHS format. Maybe I have something you're looking for. Will gladly trade. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

IF YOU LIKE HARRISON FORD, you'll love playing "Cliff Hangers", the trivia game which covers Harrison's career from the beginning through MOSQUITO COAST. Over 600 questions in 23 categories will test your knowledge of Harrison's characters and a supplement on FRANTIC will be available in the spring. Please send \$12.95 ppd. or SASE for further information to Helen Clark, 249 Kingston Rd., Lexington, KY 40505.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP? With the editors' permission, we offer photocopies of the following zines: ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, KESSEL RUN, CROSSED SABERS, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, DOCKING BAY, FAR REALMS, MILLENNIUM, TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 and #2. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

ZINE SALE: SW and Ford. Many zines. 1978-86. Send \$1 or 2 IRC's & SASE for list to: Carolyn Golledge, 6 Burrawang St., Ettalong 2257, N.S.W., Australia

ZINE SALE: SW and some ST and other, reasonable prices. Selling to clear some closet space. SASE for list, to Barbara Tennison, 1834-1/2 Selby Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025.

ZINE SALE: SW, ST, mixed. Some out of print. Any Ford or Spock lovers out there? Zines devoted to HF roles and many to Spock (esp. Spock/Christine) on list. SASE for this list to Nancy Baker, 1411 NW 78th St., Des Moines, IA 50311.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. Also Dirk Benedict from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover-up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Cynthia Levine
1212 E. Howell #6
Seattle, WA 98122

Anne Nelson
28340 Rey de Copas Lane
Malibu, CA 90265

Linda Deneroff
704 E. Thomas, #103
Seattle, WA 98102

Margie Abadie
1773 11th St.
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Lita Shelton
2609 Rainier
Everett, WA 98201

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457 Meadowhill Drive
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